Bucs set record
With a loss to the Cubs, the Pirates set a new standard for futility. **1B**

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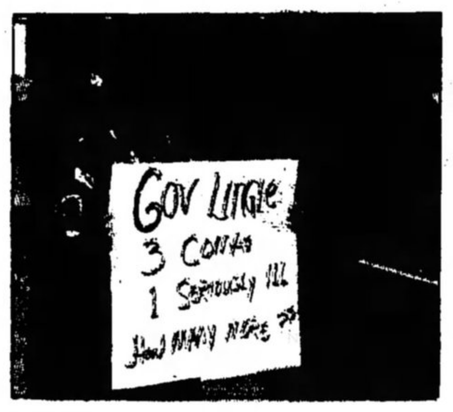

Valley Health
Economics could limit health care for people affected by atomic testing that occurred in the 1940s and 1950s. **8A**

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Vice President Joe Biden said organized labor built America's middle class. **3A**

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Ashley Altemare, of Charleroi, has always dreamed of working in politics in Washington, D.C. **3A**

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Time is running out for a two-party compromise on health care. **5A**

Health care topic
Debate over health care dominates the agenda as Congress returns. **5A**

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- Eleanor Musial, 81, Monessen
- Andrew August Salminen, 54, Carroll Township
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Tonight Mostly cloudy 56°
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Two sections, 18 Pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Business, a regular Wednesday feature of *The Valley Independent.*

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City Park project blooms

Dead and diseased trees near the track will be replaced by blooming pear trees.

By STACY WOLFORD
Staff Writer
swolford@tribweb.com

MONESSEN – A popular area at City Park is undergoing a fall makeover.

More than 60 dead and diseased trees along Grand Boulevard, above the walking track, will be chopped down as part of the Monessen Parks Restoration Group's ongoing efforts to renovate the facility.

Work began today.

But tree lovers and environmentalists can rest assured the area will be lush and green as the group's chairman, Dr. Martin Dudas, promised new trees will be included in the landscaping plan.

Scott Dillon and Rich Lester, of Scott's Tree Service in Brownsville, prepare a plan of action at City Park in Monessen.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

"What many people don't know is that trees also have a life span," Dudas said. "The area has been untouched for so many years, and the pine trees are either dead or diseased, and they need to be removed."

The group is paying for the project with a $20,000 grant the Monessen Community Development Corp.. obtained through state Sen. J. Barry Stout, D-Bentleyville, and state Rep. Ted Harhai, D-Monessen.

The group is working with the Monessen Redevelopment Authority and city Councilman John Harhai, head of the parks department.

Dudas said once the contractor removes trees and stumps, it will install a split-rail fence and plant blossoming pear trees this fall or

(See CITY PARK, Page 2A)

Hopeful jury still out on Obama

The mid-term election might reveal America's real opinion of the president.

By LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, Pa. – They've heard it all before – the tanking economy, the bleeding of jobs, the creeping hardship that never seems to ebb.

And the desperate hope that hangs over everything and whispers that maybe, just maybe, tomorrow might be a tiny bit better.

In the river valley where Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia meet, the anticipation of change never really goes away. Because of that, it seems, people still are willing to give Barack Obama a chance as he maneuvers through the murkiness of a nation in transformation.

"No one is feeling satisfied with the state of the country," Derek Duffee says from behind his coffee bar's counter in Pennsylvania's Washington.

"I don't know if what he's doing will work, but he's trying," says Miyoshi Braxton, an Obama fan smoking on a park bench outside her downtown apartment building in Steubenville, Ohio.

And this from antiques dealer and Obama skeptic Bob Yocum in Wheeling, W.Va., who is sticking with the president for now: "He's the only one we've got."

In a country of deep divisions and ideological extremes, impressions of Obama around here fall somewhere in the middle. Eight months into his presidency, he's not the hero who will fix all the problems, nor is he the villain who caused them. Instead, he is seen as a bridge that leads toward the country's next era – a guide into the new unknown.

He inherited two wars and a complicated recession and, while grappling with those, is trying to revamp the nation's health care and energy policies as he tackles a slew of other ambitious agenda items.

Complicating matters is a public that both wants him to stanch the bleeding but is also, as always, skittish about true change. And he's is trying to do it all during a national transition that many fear could leave American dominance in doubt.

"He stepped into a time when there were probably the most problematic things going on," said Dan Moschetta, a 22-year-old recent college graduate from this southwestern Pennsylvania city, 260 miles west of the Washington where Obama lives. "If he could get to all the issues, I'd say he was Superman."

As Obama heads into an autumn

(See OBAMA, Page 2A)

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

A section of West Main Street in Monongahela is still closed this morning in the wake of a Sunday morning fire that destroyed one building and damaged two others.

Fire-damaged building too unstable for probe

Ten people were rendered homeless by the Sunday morning blaze.

By PAUL PATERRA
For The Valley Independent
ppaterra@tribweb.com

Because conditions at the scene of Sunday's fire in Monongahela have been deemed unsafe, it appears the cause of the blaze will remain undetermined.

"The building is too unsafe for them to look for something," said Paul Pro, New Eagle fire chief.

City firefighters returned to the scene Monday, one day after fire severely damaged three buildings in the 200 block of Main Street. The buildings housed businesses and apartments.

"We're working on structure safety in the foundation," said Frank Hnatik, city fire chief. "We're working with contractors and structure owners."

The fire was reported 5:16 a.m. Sunday and was determined to have started in the building housing Vocelli Pizza at 222 Main St.

Along with Vocelli, damaged businesses were the Bee's Nest Cafe and Hufnagel Software & Computers. Three apartments were above Hufnagel Software & Computers, and one was above Vocelli Pizza.

Robert Brooks, owner of the Vocelli shop, said arrangements were being made yesterday to raze the damaged buildings. The Monongahela resident said he

(See UNSTABLE, Page 2A)

Fire sparks transit bus detours

Mid Mon Valley Transit bus service through downtown Monongahela is being rerouted because a block of the business district is closed in the aftermath of a fire there Sunday.

Routes A, connecting the Valley with Pittsburgh, and Route B, which loops through the Valley connecting California with New Eagle, will travel behind Sheetz onto Railroad Street to Fifth Street and then back to Main Street.

Riders who normally catch the Route A anywhere between Sheetz and Fifth Street along Main Street, will have to board on Railroad Street. Route B will use the same detour when traveling toward New Eagle and Lignelli Manor.

Hanging attempt foiled in Monessen jail

The incident occurred at the city lock-up following a traffic stop on Grand Boulevard.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

MONESSEN – A Monessen man who was wanted on warrants from Fayette County unsuccessfully tried to hang himself in a city jail cell.

Police Chief Mark Gibson said Gary Brumley, 41, of 505 Park Manor, was flown by emergency helicopter to a Pittsburgh hospital following the Aug. 29 incident.

According to Gibson, the situation began when Brumley was stopped 3:32 p.m. on Grand Boulevard for a traffic violation.

Police said Brumley had no driver's license and was cited for habitual offender driving while under suspension along with the traffic violation.

When police ran Brumley's information into their computer, they discovered that he had numerous warrants out of Fayette County.

"At that time, we informed him that we had to hold him until Fayette County sheriffs could come get him," Gibson said of Brumley.

Brumley was placed in a jail cell.

Gibson said that while Brumley was in the cell, he took off his socks and tied them together to fashion a rope in an attempt to hang himself.

However, a prisoner monitor observed what he was doing and alerted police who rushed to the cell.

"While our officers were trying to cut him down he was combative and was kicking them," said Gibson.

After Brumley was cut down, he was flown to Pittsburgh for treatment.

Gibson added that Fayette County sheriff's deputies went to the hospital in Pittsburgh.

VALLEY PEOPLE

Russian ship queries arise

Some speculate it was hauling missiles to Syria or Iran.

By The Associated Press

MOSCOW – Russia's foreign minister today rejected speculation that a hijacked Russian-crewed freighter was carrying S-300 missiles possibly destined for Iran.

The freighter Arctic Sea was allegedly seized by pirates in the Baltic Sea in late July after leaving a Finnish port.

Russian naval vessels intercepted the ship weeks later off Cape Verde, thousands of kilometers from the Algerian port where it was purportedly supposed to deliver a load of timber.

But an array of questions continue to cloud the incident. Some observers have suggested that the seizure of a ship in the crowded Baltic, especially one carrying a comparatively low-value cargo, was unlikely as an act of straightforward piracy.

A Russian shipping expert and an EU anti-piracy official have speculated that the vessel was carrying a clandestine cargo, possibly S-300 surface-to-air missiles for Iran or Syria.

But Lavrov said today that "the presence of S-300s on board the Arctic Sea cargo ship is a complete lie," the state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

Separately, Russia's top investigative body, the general prosecutor's Investigative Committee, said its inspectors had examined the ship and found no unauthorized cargo, RIA Novosti said.

Suspicions that the Arctic Sea was carrying something other than timber also arose when Russia sent three heavy-lift air force jets to Cape Verde after the ship was found. The planes had far more capacity than would have been needed to bring the eight alleged hijackers and most crew members back to Russia.

Four crew members stayed on board to help guide the ship to the Russian port of Novorossiisk, where authorities have said a thorough investigation of the ship will be held.

The crew members have been kept incommunicado. The eight suspects have been charged with piracy and are in custody, but Russian authorities have not given details of what they contend happened aboard the ship.

Lavrov said Russia would invite officials from Malta, under whose flag the Arctic Sea sailed, to take part in the inspection.

Yesteryear

Mary and Adam Visca, of Monessen, are pictured in the 1930s. The photo was submitted by their daughter, Maya Patch, of Carroll Township.

If you have a good old-time photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Pakistan resumes polio shots

The Taliban had declared the vaccinations non-Islamic.

By The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD – Officials in Pakistan's Swat Valley have resumed vaccinating children for polio, a practice the Taliban had banned as un-Islamic before they were beaten back by an army offensive.

The last inoculations were administered nearly a year ago, an official said Tuesday.

The Islamist militants, who began taking over the valley in 2007, had declared a campaign to vaccinate against the potentially crippling disease was un-Islamic because it was foreign-funded.

Swat Taliban leader Maulana Fazullah said the vaccinations were a Western conspiracy to make Muslim children infertile.

The army says it has killed more than 1,800 suspected militants in Swat since launching its latest offensive there four months ago.

The government is now trying to bring the valley back to normal.

Most of the 2 million people displaced in the offensive have returned home.

Weather

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 74	High 73	High 76	High 78	High 81
Low 57	Low 55	Low 58	Low 60	Low 60

Unstable (FROM PAGE ONE)

plans to open another store in town.

"We're going to rebuild a store down there," he said yesterday. "I'll have to ask the owner of the building if he's going to rebuild. If not, I'll have to find a different location."

Crews had Sunday's fire under control by 11:45 a.m., but not before an accident occurred involving equipment on a fire truck.

Firefighter Les "Hootie" Pemberton, a second assistant fire chief with the New Eagle fire department, was on a 100-foot ladder truck when about 20 feet of the ladder collapsed and hit the roof of a three-story building at 218 Main St. Pro described the truck as a 1977 maximum C-grade 110-foot stick aerial fire truck.

Pemberton was taken to Monongahela Valley Hospital in Carroll Township, where he was treated and released.

Pro said Pemberton suffered a couple of bruises.

"He's up and walking around," Pro said yesterday.

New Eagle Assistant Fire Chief Chaz Fine was taken to the same hospital Sunday, but Pro said Fine was just shaken up a bit.

The American Red Cross helped 10 displaced residents who lived in the apartments above the businesses. All got out of the buildings safely.

They were given debit cards for food and clothing, along with vouchers for three nights' stay at the Howard Johnson Inn in New Stanton.

City Park (FROM PAGE ONE)

next spring.

"The area is going to be a little ugly for awhile until we get everything planted and landscaped," he said. "In the long run, this will really beautify the area."

He said the group plans to plant about 40 trees, which will be spaced to allow for proper growth and maturity.

Any costs greater than the $20,000 grant will be absorbed by the restoration group, Dudas said. The group holds numerous fundraisers and uses no tax dollars for its projects.

It works with the Monessen Lions and Rotary clubs to raise money for park projects.

Dudas said the group hired a forester to survey City Park and mark the trees that need removed. He said many areas have been untouched for years.

The restoration group has other plans for City Park. It will painting the roof of the No. 2 pavilion and renovate the amphitheater.

"We would love to have that amphitheater fixed up so we can have movies and concerts there," he said.

The volunteers have made numerous improvements to the park over the past four years including:

- Installed a 15-seat gazebo at the walking track.
- Restored the historic stone wall adjacent to the upper level parking lot.
- Discovered and restored more than one mile of 1930s-era brick walkways.
- Removed 100,000-square-feet of underbrush, weeds and dead and diseased trees.
- Upgraded electrical systems in some areas.

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Obama (FROM PAGE ONE)

filled with challenges as immense as the summer's, public opinion suggests both opportunity and political peril. Polls show people in the U.S. are split over how he's performing, and that's echoed in the voices of more than three dozen people in this ailing but resilient corridor.

Here, three politically different states come together: Democratic-tilting Pennsylvania, GOP-leaning West Virginia and the perennial swing state of Ohio. Once the country's economic engine, the area self-identifies strongly with hard work, family and patriotism.

It's also a place that first felt the United States' producing economy shift toward a consumer economy when steel mills, glass factories and pottery barns that dotted the Ohio River shut down in the 1970s, victims of globalization's birthing pangs.

The way people around here feel is notable. This is a relatively conservative area that, at any other time, could reasonably be expected to reject a Democrat out of hand. And like elsewhere in America, patience is not natural in an instant-gratification society that tends to demand quick results from its leaders and to view politics in black and white.

Why the middle ground, then? Does it hint at a new flexibility? Or is it quintessential American optimism, tempered by the pragmatism of a country growing up? Are the nation's problems subverting knee-jerk politics?

Or perhaps this is a reflection of Obama himself as he straddles issue after issue with a management style that's both pragmatic and idealistic, but also leaves him open to criticism that he's failing to lead.

Also perhaps this: Facing the possibility of American decline, people may simply be at a loss for what to do – and looking, as so often before, to their president to guide them.

"This is really a whole new chapter in the state of America, and there's nothing we can do but keep doing what we're doing and hope it gets better," says Phil Axworthy, 58, a software developer taking a coffee break in Pittsburgh's Market Square.

"I'm scared," said college sophomore Mary Lesniewski, 19, as she reads a book on the green at Franciscan University in Steubenville.

Will the country turn around by the time she graduates?

"With the help of God, maybe," she answered.

People here manage to be at once optimistic and pessimistic. They say the country eventually will persevere and rebound. But they also say they're aren't as confident that the next generation will have it better than they do or that the United States will be as powerful as, say, China.

When it comes to Obama, they are wary but not ready to abandon him. They like him personally but are not embracing his policies. Yes, he inherited a country in chaos, but the troubles, they say, may be too great for him alone to reverse.

"Dude didn't do a lot of this mess," said Bill Marroulis, 53, a recently laid off security guard in Steubenville.

But, he said, Obama may not solve all the problems while in office.

"It may be the next president's time," he said.

They worry that Obama's big-spending economic prescriptions are plunging the country deeper into debt – banking and automotive bailouts, the $787 billion stimulus law and even popular car-buying rebates. But they also say it may just work.

"I'm just afraid it's a Band-Aid," said Donna Schwinghammer, 54, the co-owner of a home decor shop in Washington, Pa.

Later she added: "If the things that he's done to spark the economy do that and hold, I'll be the first to say he was right in what he did."

They seethe about the expansion of government. But they also shrug that the country got what it elected – a Democrat whose Senate voting record tilted to the left.

"The socialist approach of government solving all the problems and controlling industry and controlling finance, that's not the way to continued greatness," Peter Marx, 57, at his used bookstore in Steubenville.

That said, Marx added: "He won."

They express confusion about sending more troops to Afghanistan, they don't get what Obama wants to do with health care and they worry he's taking on too much. But they are seeking explanations and giving him time. They also seem inclined to support him – even if they don't agree with him.

"I'm leery about all of this. He's steamrolling a little too fast to suit me," said Robert Pavilky, 65, as he rested under a tree outside of Centre Market in Wheeling. Still, he added: "I'm not sitting in judgment just yet."

This wait-and-see attitude is understandable given the public's uncertainty with an economy that shows signs of recovery one day and higher unemployment the next. And in the purely political sense, the time for measurable judgment comes next fall with the congressional elections, the first real measure of a new president's standing.

As Congress and Obama return from summer break this week, such lukewarm feelings are a double-edge sword for the president.

In his short tenure, he has had his share of victories – Sonia Sotomayor's smooth Supreme Court confirmation and quick passage of the economic stimulus measure, for example. He's also had his share of troubles, including a failed push for bipartisanship. And he has started to draw down troops in Iraq and boost American forces in Afghanistan.

Through it all, the country has caught glimpses of the kind of leader he is.

But Obama remains largely undefined. Even in the areas where he's made progress – stabilizing the financial sector, for example – people aren't feeling it, so they necessarily aren't giving him any credit.

In the coming weeks, as Obama's strength is tested in his drives to overhaul health care and energy policies, he can cast himself as an agile leader able to exploit the country's incomplete take on him by shifting with the public's views.

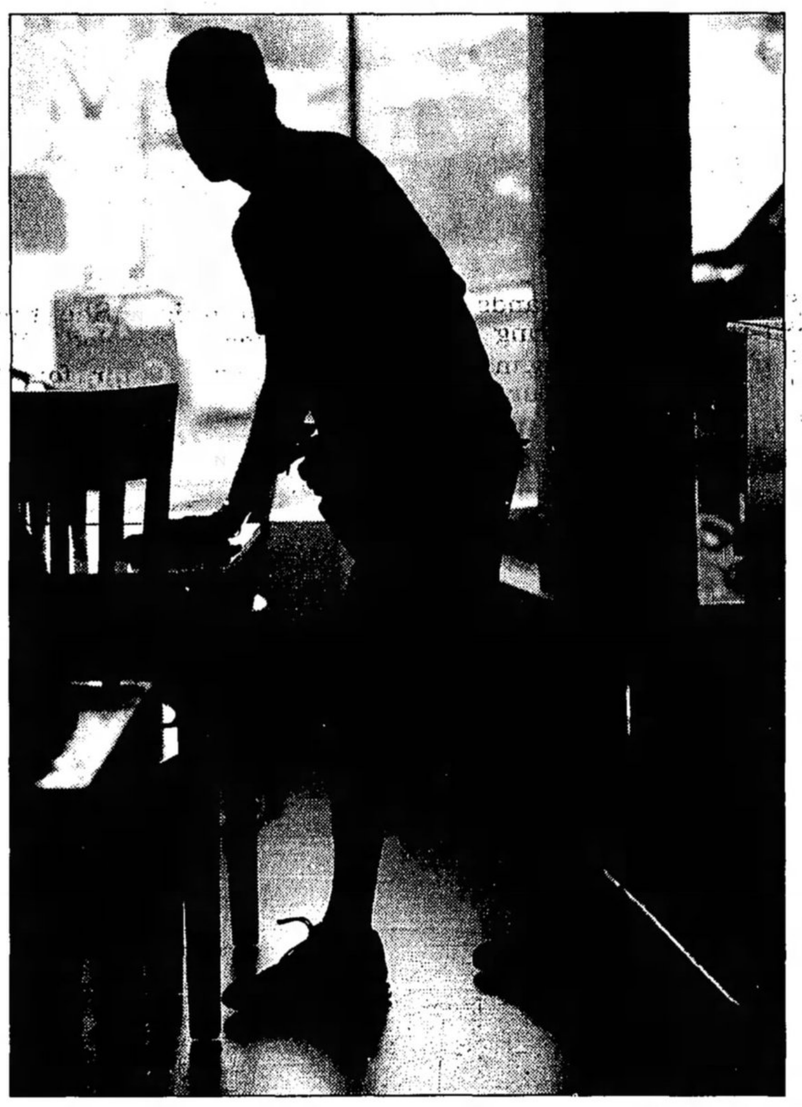
But in doing so, he also risks appearing calculating – a big problem for a president who promised to do things differently.

Ultimately, voters will either give Obama a pass because the problems are so great and the expectations for a quick turnaround so low, or they will dismiss him outright as just another say-one-thing-do-another politician.

A bridge is of limited use, after all, if you're stuck in a long, dark tunnel with no end in sight.

"I haven't seen much change," said Mark Wheitendorf, 51, a golf pro from Westlake, Ohio, who didn't vote for Obama. Still, he added as he finished breakfast: "I hope he does well. He is the president."

In an eight-month-old presidency, it's too soon to say which way it will go. Or, as people around here say, cast any sort of judgment at all.



Associated Press

Derek Duffee cleans a table at his coffee shop in Washington, Pa.

Penn State out to recoup $$$ from parents of top students

Tight economy triggers unusual request.

By The Associated Press

Students who are accepted into Penn State University's prestigious honors college get more than academic feathers in their caps. They get $3,500 annual merit scholarships.

But given the tough economic times, the school is making an unusual request: Would parents consider donating that money back?

The fundraising appeal for Schreyer Honors College leans on parents who have not applied for financial aid for their children, encouraging them to share their good fortune with needier students. It appears to be working. The first appeal to 75 families last year raised about $228,000.

"I have not heard of this kind of an approach before," said Lee Andes, president of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs. "It doesn't surprise me to hear people getting creative."

Penn State's appeal may be unusual, but the economic downturn has forced colleges around the country to rethink a decades-long shift toward using scarce financial aid dollars to lure high-achieving students.

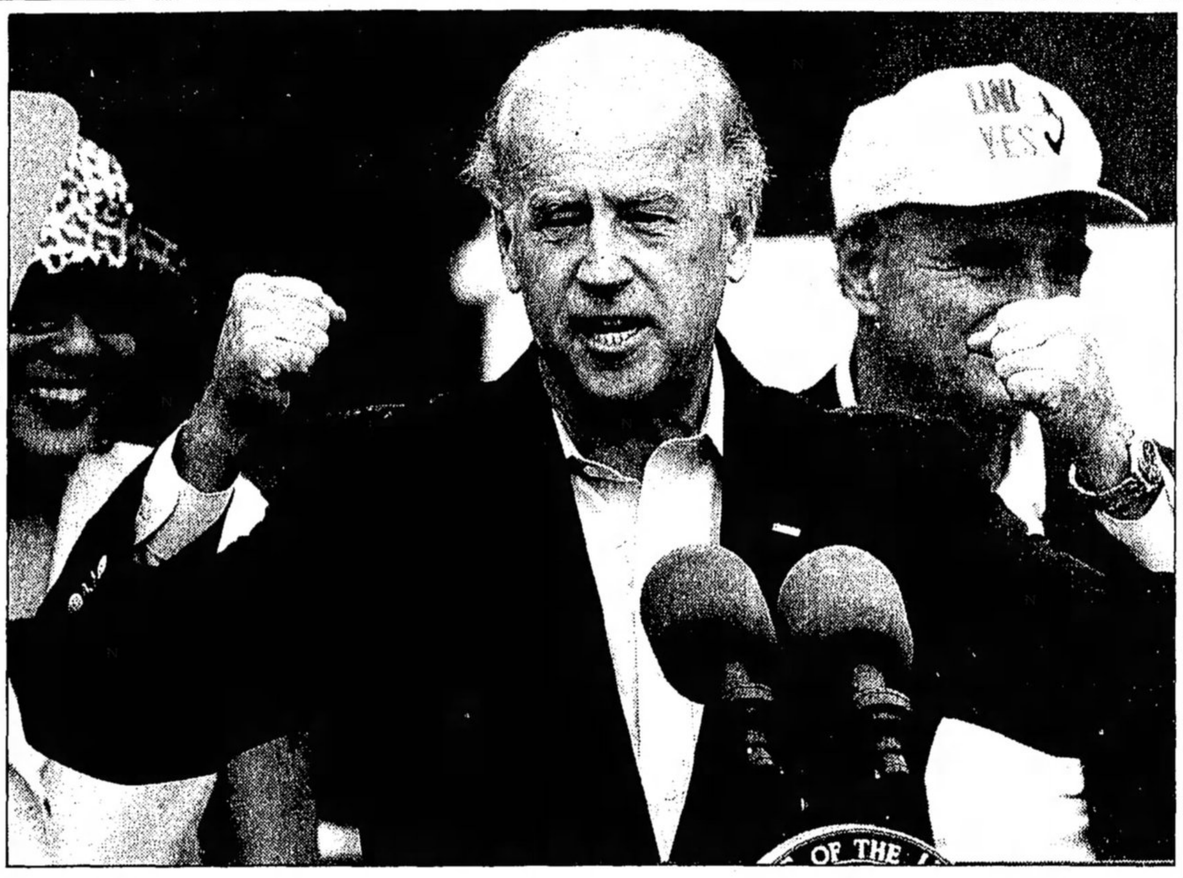
Some schools and states have tightened criteria for merit aid or eliminated it altogether to focus on students with the most need. The University of Texas at Austin plans next fall to withdraw from the National Merit Scholarship Program, which relies solely on standardized test scores to choose semifinalists and has been criticized for steering money to students who don't necessarily need it most.

Still, merit aid helps colleges lure top students and improve their rankings and reputations. Penn State is continuing the scholarships but hoping to persuade recipients' parents to return the favor.

Schreyer parents, with administrators' backing, made their first appeal in a letter to other parents as the recession worsened. Students had begun turning to the college for additional financial help; in all, there was more than $1 million in unmet need at this time a year ago, said Dean Christian Brady.

After the success of that campaign, parents this year doubled the number of solicitations.

"When you pay that tuition bill, I am asking you to assess whether you 'need' the scholarship and, if you do not, please join me and my husband by making a donation in the amount of the scholarship to the Schreyer Honors College," reads the letter from Kristin Hayes, mother of a junior in the program.



Associated Press

Vice President Joe Biden gestures while addressing the crowd before the start of the Labor Day parade in Pittsburgh on Monday.

Unions back health care reform at Labor Day parade in 'Burgh

Vice President Joe Biden, Sen. Arlen Specter spoke before parade began.

By MIKE CRONIN
For The Valley Independent
mcronin@tribweb.com

Health care reform and the freedom to organize are the two most crucial issues facing workers today, union members said during Pittsburgh's annual Labor Day parade.

Vice President Joe Biden spoke to thousands about those goals during a rally Monday morning in spitting rain before the parade made its way Downtown.

Biden called laborers "the backbone of this country" and said, "You built the middle class."

The Allegheny County Labor Council predicted between 60,000 and 70,000 marchers would take part in the 26th annual parade that began at Mellon Arena and ended at the United Steelworkers Union Building on the Boulevard of the Allies. It is historically one of the largest Labor Day parades in the nation.

On the Employee Free Choice Act under consideration by Congress, Biden said the administration of President Obama would get it done, with the help of Sen. Arlen Specter. Specter also spoke at the rally.

"If you wanted to join a union, you could join a union and not be stopped by employers," Biden said.

The act would allow a majority of employees to sign cards saying they'd like to join a union. Now, the National Labor Relations Board holds a secret ballot after the card-signing procedure.

The act would enable employees to speed the process of forming a union, said Jonathan Leibowitz, 31, of Point Breeze, an organizer for the Service Employees International Union Healthcare Pennsylvania.

The current system "takes more than a month," Leibowitz said. "Employers can fire people who want to organize. They can harass them into not doing it."

Cheryl Holt of Observatory Hill said the country should have a unified health care system.

"We need one where everyone gets health care no matter what," said Holt, 41, a member of the Communications Workers of America union. She said she has attended the parade every year for 12 years.

Carl "Hands" Paullet, a Pittsburgh-based regional director of retiree affairs for the Teamsters, said yesterday's event was about two things.

"Solidarity and bringing in new members," said Paullet, 75, of Ligonier, a former mechanic for the now-defunct company Helms/Ryder Express.

The 56-year Teamster member praised the laborers who preceded him and his fellow union members.

"We thank those who have gone before us and allowed us to have this kind of day," Paullet said.

Steven Walls of Lawrence in Washington County hopes that union organizers past and present will help people like him form a union.

Walls, 51, is a home health care worker who, with his mother, is responsible for his partly paralyzed brother, John.

"Home health care workers have no union, but the SEIU is helping us," said Walls, who has no health insurance.

"We need to reform our health care system so every man, woman and child can be covered in this country," he said.

Before the rally at Mellon Arena, Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh Bishop David Zubik celebrated Mass at St. Benedict the Moor Church on Crawford Street.

"Labor Day is about the value of a skilled, educated work force," said Democratic Rep. Joe Sestak of Delaware County, who is running for the Senate against Specter in 2010 and marched in the parade. "This generation, those in their 30s and 40s, is the first one in our country's history that has not done better economically or in quality of life than their parents."

An official at Pittsburgh police headquarters could not provide a crowd estimate for the parade.

Cal U student starts internship at state capital

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

Valley profiles

A weekly look at one of our neighbors

Ashley Altemare has always dreamed of working in politics in Washington, D.C.

While the 2005 graduate of Charleroi Area has not yet accomplished that goal, she appears to be well on her way.

Starting today, Altemare will be working in the office of Keith McCall, speaker of the state House of Representatives.

Altemare

She will be doing public relations work in the office as part of The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS.)

A senior at California University of Pennsylvania majoring in business administration with a minor in political science, Altemare was picked by the university for the program.

She will serve her internship in Harrisburg until Dec. 11. She is also slated to graduate in December.

"I'm very excited," she said about the opportunity. "It's a little overwhelming right now with orientation going on. But I can't wait to get started."

As part of her duties working in McCall's office, Altemare will help plan events for the speaker, send out thank-you notes, entertain his Harrisburg visitors and anything else that involves PR.

"I start Tuesday and I can't wait," she said during an interview late last week. "Right now, we are getting a feel for the city and the other people in the office. I'm trying to find my way around the capitol."

The Harrisburg Internship Semester was created to provide college students with an enriching academic experience.

Students selected for the program are given the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits.

Over 400 students from Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education have participated in The Harrisburg Internship Semester since the program since it began in 1980, each gaining valuable insight into the workings of state government at the policy-making level.

THIS interns have worked with dozens of state agencies, as well as in the office of the governor, the Speaker of the House and the Attorney General.

The semester-long program takes in one student from each of the 14 state

(See PROFILE, Page 7A)

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THE QUIZ

NEWSFACE: *I was recently selected to replace Charles Gibson as the anchor of ABC's "World News" after Gibson announced he is retiring. I have been the co-anchor of "Good Morning America" since 1999. Now 63, I have had a long career, working for a number of network television news shows, including "60 Minutes," "Primetime Live" and "20/20." I will begin my new job in January. Who am I?*

1. In a shift in policy, President Obama said the White House will release the names of (CHOOSE ONE: campaign donors, White House visitors) to satisfy watchdog groups.

2. (CHOOSE ONE: Andy Roddick, Roger Federer), the 2003 U.S. Open champion and 2006 runner-up, beat Marc Gicquel of France 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 at the U.S. Open.

3. Pharmaceutical giant (CHOOSE ONE: Pfizer, Bayer) was fined $2.3 billion in the largest health-care fraud settlement in history.

4. Hurricane (CHOOSE ONE: Erika, Jimena) slammed into Mexico's Baja Peninsula Wednesday with 100-mph winds.

5. One-time chart-topper (CHOOSE ONE: Whitney Houston, Britney Spears), attempting to make her comeback, gave a disappointing performance on "Good Morning America."

NEWSPLACE:

The U.S. State Department formally halted all non-humanitarian aid to this Central American country, citing the June 28 coup that removed President Manuel Zelaya from power. U.S. officials say the regime that now controls the country has resisted efforts to restore democracy there. The U.S. government also said it wouldn't support the result of a planned November presidential election here unless the vote is free and open. Name this country.

6. One of the people who has said he won't rule out a run for the late Edward Kennedy's Senate seat is longtime Boston Red Sox star (CHOOSE ONE: Wade Boggs, Curt Schilling).

7. The U.S. government is condemning Israel's reported plans to build new settlement homes in the Palestinian territory of (CHOOSE ONE: Gaza, the West Bank).

8. The nation's _____ rate is now the highest it's been since 1983.

9. The cast of 1990s TV sitcom hit "Seinfeld" will reunite on HBO's (CHOOSE ONE: "Entourage,"" "Curb Your Enthusiasm").

10. Rescue efforts continue in the aftermath of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit the Asian nation of ..?..
__Malaysia __Indonesia __Taiwan __the Philippines

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91 to 100 points *TOP SCORE!* 71 to 80 points *Good*
81 to 90 points *Excellent* 61 to 70 points *Fair*

ANSWERS

NEWSFACE: Diane Sawyer *(15 points for correct answer)*
NEWSPLACE: Honduras *(10 points for correct answer)*
(5 points for each correct answer) 1-White House visitors; 2-Andy Roddick; 3-Pfizer; 4-Jimena 5-Whitney Houston; 6-Curt Schilling 7-the West Bank; 8-unemployment; 9-Curb Your Enthusiasm; 10-Indonesia

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Two vehicles wind up in river

Separate incidents end with a truck and a convertible submerged.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

RESA police had to make arrangements to pull two vehicles out of the Monongahela River after separate incidents over the weekend.

According to RESA officer in charge Mark Stewart, the second incident occurred when Josh Mentzner was using his grandfather's truck to put a jet ski in the river at the Wayne Street ramp in Roscoe at approximately 4:30 p.m. Monday.

"For some reason, while the guy was on the jet ski, the truck just let loose and then rolled into the river," Stewart said.

The truck is owned by Albert Mentzner, of 57 Hill St., Coal Center.

The submerged truck and was pulled out by Bujanowski Towing.

The first incident took place Sunday afternoon when Steven Hantz, of 398 Willow Way, Stockdale, was trying to back a convertible into his garage.

"The vehicle apparently didn't have any brakes," Stewart said, noting that the owner was aware of the situation.

"He backed the vehicle into his garage and it went through the back of the garage, down the hill and into the river," Stewart said. "Being a convertible, it sunk pretty good."

Stewart said Hantz was still in the vehicle when it went into the river, but escaped as the vehicle began to sink.

Stewart said the vehicle was submerged on the river bottom and that divers were summoned this morning to recover it.

Stewart said there were no injuries as a result of either incident.

RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

AGLIO — James "Mac" Aglio Sr., 94, of Newell, on Friday, Sept. 4. Eley/McCrory Funeral Home Inc., Fayette City.*

BERESH — Michael S. Beresh, 93, of Monessen, on Sunday, Sept. 6. Robert A. Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

MUSIAL — Eleanor Musial, 81, of Monessen, on Sunday, Sept. 6. Robert A. Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

SABO — Shirley Linn (Patterson) Sabo, 67, of Monessen, on Friday, Sept. 4. Leonard J. Parzynski Funeral Home, Belle Vernon.*

SALMINEN — Andrew August Salminen, of Carroll Township, on Sunday, Sept. 6. Frye Funeral Home Inc., Monongahela.*

PREVIOUS DEATH:
BRAKE, Dorothy A.*
* See death notice

James "Mac" Aglio Sr.
Newell

James "Mac" Aglio Sr., 94, of Newell. Pa, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2009, in his residence with his family at his side. He was born Sept. 30, 1914, in Wellsburg, W.Va, son of the late Rosario Aglio and the late Angela Aglio. He was retired from Allied Chemical in Newell. Surviving are son, James "Buddy" Aglio, Jr. and wife, Linda, of Newell; brother, Louis Aglio, of Centerville; two granddaughters, Keli and Keri Aglio, of Newell; great-grandson, Sean Gargan. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Julia Myrga Aglio; brothers, Jiggs, Angelo and Joe Aglio; and sister, Josephine Calcara. Friends will be received in the ELEY/MECRORY FUNERAL HOME, INC., Main St., Fayette City, on Tuesday 2-4 & 7-9 pm and Wednesday, Sept. 9, until 10 a.m. with Pastor Frank Todaro officiating. Interment will follow in the Charleroi Cemetery, Charleroi, Pa www.eleymccroryfuneralhome.co

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Michael S. Beresh
Monessen

Michael S. Beresh, 93, of Monessen, died Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009, in the Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at Greater Pittsburgh Greensburg. Born in Monessen on Aug. 21, 1916, he was a son of the late Michael and Mary Pankovich Beresh. He served his country as a sergeant with U.S. Army during World War II. He retired from American Chain and Cable Co. Monessen Plant and Corning Glass of Charleroi. He was a member of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church, VFW Post 1190, and was the oldest surviving member of the Knights of Columbus Council 954. Besides his parents, he was proceeded in death by his wife, Elayne M. Sosnar Beresh; two sisters, Mary Twardy and Ann Kozar; a brother, John Beresh; and two grandchildren, Craig and Chad Clay. He is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Michele and Edward Clay, of Sumter, S.C. and Pamela and Edward Dudzinsky, of Greensburg; four grandchildren, Ryan and Amy Dudzinsky, and Jason and Gregory Clay; and one sister, Irene Beresh Herb, of Pittsburgh. Friends will be received Tuesday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the ROBERT A. BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC., Grand Blvd. and Marion Ave., Monesen (724) 684-3700. Panachida services wil be held Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by 10 a.m. funeral services in St. Marys Byzantine Catholic Church, with the Rev. Stephen Wahal officiating. Interment will follow in St. Hyacinths Cemetery. The Knights of Columbus will conduct services tonight at 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Dorothy Ann Brake
Monongahela

Dorothy Ann Brake, 81 of Monongahela, died Monday, Sept. 7, 2009 in Mercy Hospital. Friends will be received on Thursday from 2-4 and 7-9 in the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 W. Main Street, Monongahela. A complete obituary will appear in tomorrow's edition of the Valley Independent.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Eleanor Musial
Monessen

Eleanor Musial, 81, of Monessen, died on Sunday Sept. 6, 2009, in her home. Born in Monessen on Feb. 14, 1928, she was the daughter of the late John and Catherine Bednarezyk Zelaznowski, Prior to her marriage, she was employed as a waitress at Johnston's Restaurant. She was a member of St. Josephs Polish National Catholic Church of Fairhope. She was past president of the Monessen PTA, and an honorary life member of the Pa Congress of Parent's and Teachers. She was past recording secretary for the Polish National Alliance 1146, a volunteer for the American Red Cross Blood drives, a voter registration volunteer and a smiles volunteer with the Monessert Elementary Center. She was an instrumental volunteer in the Polish Heritage exhibit at the Monessen Historical Museum. She was a volunteer with the Monessen Meals on Wheels. She enjoyed traveling with her late husband and family throughout the country and abroad. She enjoyed handcrafts and crocheting afghans for her family. Besides her parents, she was proceeded in death by her husband, Edward S. Musial; two sisters, Frances Zelaznowski and Helen Musial; and one brother, John" Sonny" Zelaznowski. She is survived by one daughter, and son-in-law, Elayne and George Busovicki, of Indiana, Pa.; and one son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Patti Musial, of Baltimore, Md.; two grandchildren, Michael and his wife, Noelle, Busovicki of Bridgeville, and Kimberly Musial, of Baltimore; one brother, Edward Zelan,of Murfreesboro Tenn; numerous nieces and nephews. Friends will be received on Wednesday from 2 until 4 and 6 until 8 pm in the ROBERT A. BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC., Grand Blvd and Marion Ave., Monessen (724) 684-3700. A prayer service will be held on Thursday at 9:30 am in the funeral home followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial in St Joseph's Polish National Catholic Church with Fr. Felix Pyzowski officiating. Entombment will follow in Grandview Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Joseph's Church. The Catholic Professional Business Women will conduct services 7 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Shirley Linn (Patterson) Sabo
Monessen

Shirley Linn Patterson Sabo, 67, of Monessen, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2009, at Mt. Macrina Manor, Uniontown. Born May 29, 1942 in Clairton, she was the daughter of the late Harry and Frances Wray Patterson. Mrs. Sabo was a lifelong resident of Monessen and a homemaker. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Stephen Sabo; two daughters and one son-in-law, Mary and Corey Wilson, of Monessen, and Christina Sabo, of North Belle Vernon; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Harry and Marlene Patterson, of Virginia, and Larry Patterson of Uniontown, three sisters, Linda Apperson and Ruth Ann Rodeheaver, both of Virginia, and Olive Thompson, of Glassport;, and three grandchildren Caitlyn and Taylor Bell, and Katherine Wilson. She is preceded in death by four grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the LEONARD J. PARZYNSKI FUNERAL HOME, Family Owned and Operated, 626 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon 724-929-6183. Condolences accepted at the funeral homes web site, www.parzynskifuneralhome.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Andrew August Salminen
Carroll Township

Andrew August Salminen, 54, of Carroll Township, died unexpectedly Sunday, Sept. 6, 2009 in his home. A 1973 graduate of Ringgold High School and a National Merit Scholarship finalist, Andy completed his bachelor of science in physics at Carnegie Mellon in 1980 and his master's at the University of Illinois-Chicago a few years later. He worked in particle physics at the atomic collider in Fermilab in Illinois and at the Brookhaven National Laboratories on Long Island before commencing a career in support systems for atomic submarines at a New Jersey facility. A medical condition caused him to return to Pennsylvania and, during his recovery, he became a sales associate at Sears and at Macy's stores in South Hills Village. At the time of his death, he was well launched on a new career path as a mechanical engineering student at the University of Pittsburgh, doing work for credit at Curtiss-Wright Corporation in Cheswick on atomic power initiatives. Though in early years active in ham radio, camping, fishing, and scuba, and a member of his high school track and field and golf teams, later in life his chief pastime was golf, where he twice distinguished himself with a hole in one. Other passions were science fiction, game theory, and bridge. Andy was the son of the late Adolph A. "Gus" Salminen who died in 2008. He is survived by his mother, Kathleen, and two brothers, Rusty and David (Claire). His sister Leslie Salminen died in 2005. Private burial will be in the Monongahela Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, in the chapel at the First Presbyterian Church, Sixth and Main Streets, Monongahela, with the Rev. Mark Woomer officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a charity of one's choice. THE FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC. is in charge of the arrangements

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Ex-Rep. Joe Kennedy nixes Senate campaign

Decision by late Sen. Ted Kennedy's nephew is expecetd to widen the race.

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, the eldest son of Robert F. Kennedy, has announced he would not run for the U.S. Senate seat held for nearly 50 years by his late uncle, Edward M. Kennedy. The decision was certain to widen the race for the Democratic nomination.

In a statement, the former six-term congressman said he cares about those seeking decent housing, fair wages and health care. But he added, "The best way for me to contribute to those causes is by continuing my work at Citizens Energy Corp."

The nonprofit organization provides free heating oil to the poor, but Kennedy likely would have faced campaign questions about fuel it received from Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez — a persistent U.S. critic. He also has settled into a comfortable lifestyle since leaving Congress in 1999, taking home a $545,000 salary as Citizens Energy's president as of 2007, and being spared the barbs he has faced from some local columnists recently for his past temper tantrums and high pay.

Yet Kennedy also may have garnered support from the legions of Massachusetts Democrats who long supported his uncle, to whom he paid tribute in a widely applauded memorial service speech last month. He also had name recognition among national followers of his father, who was a U.S. senator from New York when he was assassinated in June 1968 while seeking the Democratic presidential nomination.

"My father called politics an honorable profession, and I have profound respect for those who choose to advance the causes of social and economic justice in elective office," the 56-year-old Kennedy said. Friends said that among those who had been urging him to consider a candidacy were his sons.

The decision surrenders a seat the Kennedy family has held for all but two years since 1953, when John F. Kennedy moved from the U.S. House to the Senate.

VALLEY POLICE LOG

Monessen

■ Linda Johnson, 48, of 643 South 14th St., Monessen, was charged with driving under the influence as a result of a traffic stop that took place 1:46 a.m. Aug. 18 on Donner Avenue.

■ Richard Lloyd, 61, of Monessen, was charged with assault as a result of an incident that took place 8:43 p.m. Sept. 7 at 1007 Park Manor.

■ Garriton Jones, 53, of Monessen, was charged with public drunkenness and disorderly conduct 8:15 p.m. Sept. 4 at 231 Knox Ave.

■ Matthew Hlodan, 20, of 88 Pennsylvania Blvd., was charged with simple assault as a result of an incident that took place 10:45 p.m. Sept. 7 at his home.

State police, Greensburg

■ Derek Vivio, 27, of Perryopolis, was charged with retail theft after he allegedly stole a Mio GPS unit from the Radio Shack, Countyside Plaza, East Huntingdon Township.

■ Richard Andrew Shychuk, 51, of West Newton, was charged with public drunkenness 4:50 p.m. Sept. 7 after he was found on Bells Mill Road, just south of State Route 136 in Sewickley Township.

Monongahela

■ Conrad Buchak, 40, of 129 Rush Ave., New Eagle, was charged with disorderly conduct, 6 p.m. Friday at McDonalds for allegedly using obscene language, police reported.

■ Robert David VanPool, 42, of 640 Marne Ave., Monongahela, was charged with disorderly conduct 10:30 p.m. Friday for allegedly causing a disturbance at 425 High Street, police reported.

■ Eugene Filby, 44, of 102 Second St., Monongahela, was charged with public drunkenness 9 p.m. Sunday on Railroad Street, police reported.

■ Almondie Dorothy Rawls, 30, of 805 Sixth St., Charleroi, was charged with retail theft at Sheetz, 8:30 p.m. Monday, police reported.

VALLEY BRIEF

Former Monessen Southwestern Railroaders will meet for a luncheon noon Wednesday at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Rostraver Township.

Suspected serial killer nabbed in Milwaukee

Walter Ellis, 49, is charged in the deaths of two women but additional homicide charges are expected to be filed against him.

By DINESH RAMDE
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — A Milwaukee man authorities say is linked by DNA to the slayings of nine women since 1986 had shown angry tendencies in the past, but nothing that suggested he was responsible for deaths that terrorized local prostitutes for more than two decades, police said.

Walter E. Ellis, 49, has been charged in the deaths of two of the nine victims, and more charges are expected this week, prosecutors said Monday.

Ellis had been in trouble with the law before. He pleaded no contest in 1998 to a reduced charge of second-degree reckless injury and served three years of a five-year sentence, police Chief Edward Flynn said. That wasn't enough to raise red flags, he added, without providing additional details about that crime.

"Yes, he does have a criminal history," Flynn said. "His criminal history, however, does not lend one to immediately say, you know, 'prime suspect.'"

It was only in recent years that DNA technology evolved enough to connect the cases to the suspect, the chief said.

"Good police work and good police science led us to Walter Ellis," Flynn said.

Police began to focus on Ellis after his name surfaced in connection with a number of unsolved homicides, Flynn said. The chief would not be more specific.

A warrant for Ellis was issued Friday and on Saturday, an officer in suburban Franklin spotted Ellis' vehicle at a local motel. Ellis was arrested after struggling with officers, Flynn said.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm did not know whether Ellis had an attorney. A message left with Ellis' previous attorney was not returned Monday.

Police said Ellis' DNA was found on the bodies of nine women, ranging in age from 16 to 41.

They were killed between 1986 and 2007 on the city's north side. Investigators believe eight of the women were prostitutes and one was a runaway.

Police previously have speculated that the person whose DNA sample they recovered on the runaway had sex with that girl but that someone else killed her. But Chisholm would not say Monday whether anyone else would be charged in the killings.

Flynn and Chisholm announced the arrest and charges at a brief news conference and left a number of other questions unanswered, as well.

Flynn wouldn't speculate on a motive, characterize Ellis' childhood or describe a possible relationship to the victims.

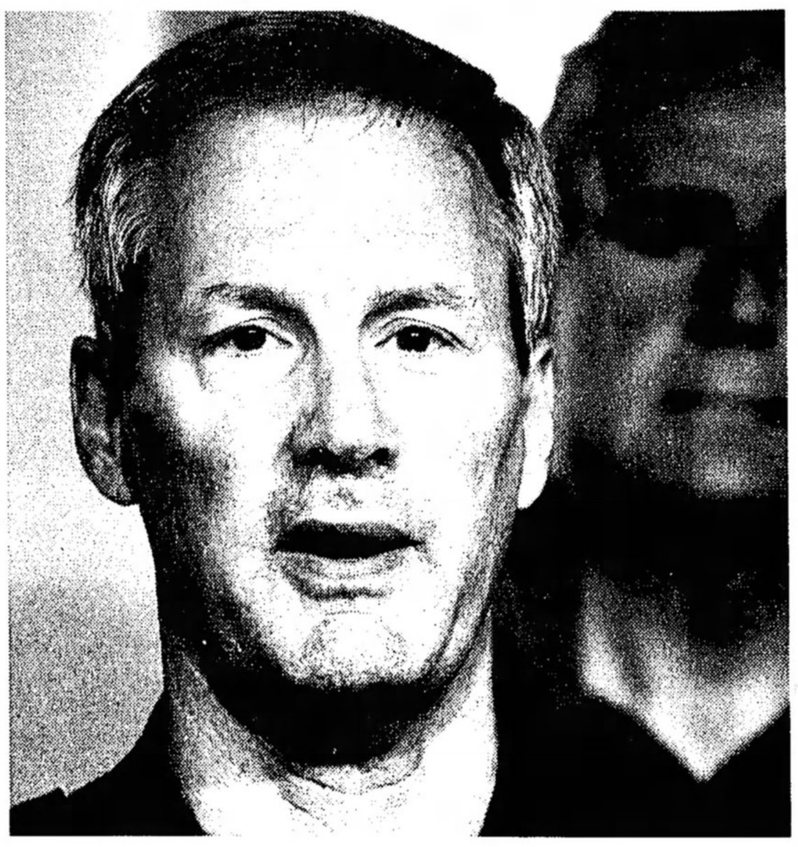
"I don't think it's possible for me to speculate what would cause someone to engage in these horrific acts," Flynn said.

Ellis is charged with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide, charges that each carry a maximum penalty of life in prison. Additional charges will be filed after prosecutors have a chance to review more evidence, Chisholm said.

Ellis was arrested days after police matched a DNA sample from his toothbrush to samples from the victims.

One victim was Joyce Mims, who was strangled in 1997 at the age of 41. On Monday, her brother said his family has carried a great burden since Mims' death.

"We just hated that it had taken so long for them to find her killer, those women's killer," said Terry Williams, 49, of Madison. "But you know, justice one day is better than no justice at all."



Associated Press

Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn tells a Monday news conference that 49-year-old Walter E. Ellis, of Milwaukee, was arrested Saturday. Prosecutors said he faces two counts of first-degree intentional homicide and more charges are expected. Police said Ellis' DNA was found on the bodies of nine women who were killed between 1986 and 2007.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 8

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2009. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Sept. 8, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a "limited national emergency" in response to the outbreak of war in Europe.

On this date:

■ In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Fla.

■ In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

■ In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

■ In 1930, the comic strip "Blondie," created by Chic Young, was first published.

■ In 1934, more than 130 people lost their lives in a fire aboard the liner SS Morro Castle off the New Jersey coast.

■ In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

■ In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

■ In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted an unconditional pardon to former President Richard Nixon.

■ In 1994, a USAir Boeing 737 crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

■ In 1998, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals broke major league baseball's record for home runs in a single season, hitting his 62nd off Chicago Cubs pitcher Steve Trachsel and eclipsing the 37-year-old record held by Roger Maris.

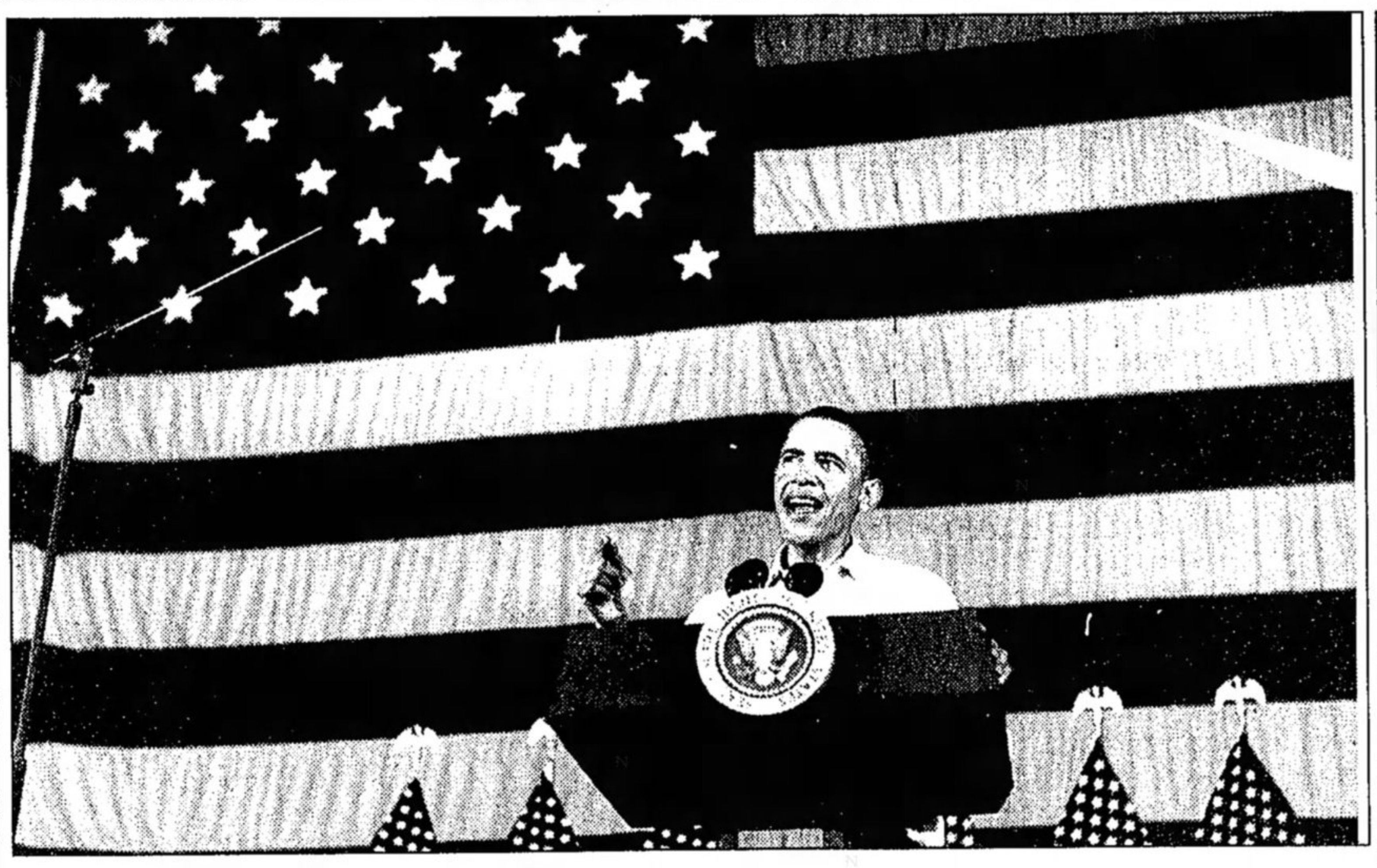
■ **Ten years ago**: Former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley officially kicked off his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination with a rally in his hometown of Crystal City, Mo.

■ **Five years ago**: CBS' "60 Minutes II" aired a report raising questions about President George W. Bush's National Guard service; however, CBS News ended up apologizing for a "mistake in judgment" after memos featured in the report were challenged as forgeries.

■ **One year ago**: In a pointed but mostly symbolic expression of displeasure with Moscow, President George W. Bush canceled a once-celebrated civilian nuclear cooperation deal with Russia.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Comedian Sid Caesar is 87. Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 69. Actor Alan Feinstein is 68. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 67. Author Ann Beattie is 62. Cajun singer Zachary Richard is 59. Musician Will Lee ("Late Show with David Letterman") is 57. Actress Heather Thomas is 52. Singer Aimee Mann is 49. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 49. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 47. R&B singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 45. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech is 44. Alternative country singer Neko Case is 39. TV personality Brooke Burke is 38. Actor Martin Freeman is 38. Actor Henry Thomas is 38. Actor David Arquette is 38. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 34. Actor Larenz Tate is 34. Actor Nathan Corddry is 32. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 28.

■ **Thought for Today:** "Censorship is the height of vanity." — Martha Graham, American modern dance pioneer (1893-1991).



Associated Press

President Barack Obama speaks at the AFL-CIO Labor Day picnic in Cincinnati on Monday. Obama, who will address Congress and the nation on health care Wednesday night, told his audience that it's time for insurance companies to share accountability for problems in the system.

Time running out for bipartisan approach to health care reform

Four congressional committees so far have produced partisan plans for revamping the system.

By LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Time is running out for a two-party compromise on health care as a bipartisan group of six Finance Committee senators considers a new proposal that might be the last, best hope for an overhaul agreement.

The six were to meet today on Sen. Max Baucus' proposal to create nonprofit insurance plans to compete with those offered by profit-making companies. The proposal by the committee chairman is noteworthy for the piece that's missing: a government-run alternative favored by liberal Democrats.

President Barack Obama, who will address Congress and the nation on health care Wednesday night, told a Labor Day audience that it's time for insurance companies to share accountability for problems in the system. He was not addressing the Baucus plan.

Four congressional committees so far have produced partisan plans for revamping the nation's health care system. Baucus, D-Mont., said he would move forward with a plan if there's no bipartisan agreement by Sept. 15.

Baucus would impose a fee on insurance companies to help finance coverage for uninsured Americans.

It's not clear whether that would win support of two key Republicans in the group, Sens. Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Mike Enzi of Wyoming. The Baucus proposal reflected many of their priorities, chief among them the decision not to include the so-called public option to compete with private insurers.

Democratic sources close to the negotiations, who were not authorized to be quoted by name, disclosed the fee and other details of the Baucus proposal. One source said the proposal included suggestions from all six members.

A spokesman for Enzi said the Wyoming senator remains actively involved in the negotiations, and he is reviewing the Baucus proposal to make sure it keeps a handle on costs and focuses on concerns folks brought to his attention during August.

Besides establishing a new way to purchase coverage for Americans who have trouble getting and keeping health insurance, the Baucus plan would allow Americans to keep their own doctors.

Health insurance exchanges, with information on different plans and prices, would allow small groups and individuals to buy policies at lower rates. Medicaid would be expanded to cover more low-income people. Nonprofit cooperatives would be established as an alternative to for-profit insurance companies, giving consumers more choices. Tax credits would allow low- and middle-income Americans to buy private coverage.

The package is estimated to cost under $900 billion over 10 years.

If insurance companies passed the new fee along to customers, they would run the risk of losing out in a newly competitive environment, a source said, reflecting Baucus' thinking.

Congress returns to familar debate

Health care reform tops congressional agenda following traditional summer recess.

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Debate over a national health care overhaul dominates the agenda as Congress returns today from its traditional summer break.

Lawmakers also will work on other pressing issues, including energy policy and new rules for the financial industry.

The focus on health care as Congress reconvenes after its month-long recess is nearly all-consuming.

President Barack Obama, in what could be one of his most important speeches, addresses lawmakers Wednesday to make his case for passing health care legislation this year.

At stake, beyond the future of health care, is an accomplishment Democrats need to convince voters they deserve to remain in power.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., presents an aggressive to-do list: "Delivering on health insurance reform and clean energy, providing jobs by improving our infrastructure, and reining in the behavior on Wall Street that contributed to the economic downturn."

Financial legislation is also on the table. The House Financial Services Committee is expected to consider a bill this month on Obama's proposals to protect consumers from financial industry excesses. The Senate is likely to follow later in the year.

The death of Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has added a twist. Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., now chairman of the banking committee, could become chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, formerly headed by Kennedy.

That would give Dodd a chance at a high-profile victory as he heads into a tough 2010 re-election campaign. It could also result in leadership of the banking committee, and the financial overhaul effort, going to Sen. Tim Johnson, a moderate Democrat from South Dakota, a center for the credit card industry.

Obama wants to create a government agency to protect consumers from abuses in such areas as credit cards and mortgages. Johnson voted against credit card protection legislation pushed through by Dodd earlier this year, saying it could limit access to credit and jeopardize thousands of jobs in his home state.

And then there's the issue of clean energy. The House in June narrowly passed a bill based on a "cap-and-trade" system in which companies would get pollution allowances that they could sell if they went below emissions limits, or buy if they could not meet the requirements.

But prospects are uncertain in the Senate, where Republicans and coal-state Democrats oppose it. The leading Senate proponents, Democrats Barbara Boxer of California and John Kerry of Massachusetts, plan to delay introducing their bill until late September. They cited Kennedy's death, Kerry's August hip surgery and the Finance Committee's focus on health care.

Meanwhile, the Senate will spend much of its floor time on annual spending bills that are supposed to be passed before Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Wildfires continue raging in California

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fire officials tried to stay aggressive in stunting the growth of a huge wildfire north of Los Angeles, but the flames and the winds that fanned them have proved unpredictable.

More than half of the stubborn fire was surrounded Monday, but plans to set preventive backfires had to be scrapped with a new flare-up in yet another area. Fire officials canceled plans to burn out brush and create a buffer south of the ferocious fire to protect the foothill neighborhoods of the San Gabriel Valley.

Incident Commander Mike Dietrich said late Monday that the weather — including 30-40 mph winds and 10 percent humidity — didn't cooperate, and the aircraft needed to support and monitor the burnout operations were diverted to the fire's northeastern flank.

The blaze was 56 percent contained and had blackened 157,220 acres, or 246 square miles, as it burned deeper into the wilderness.

"Even the mountain goats won't climb in there because it's so steep and rugged," U.S. Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy said.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles County sheriff's and fire investigators continued their homicide investigation into the fire. Officials have said the cause of the fire was arson but have released no other findings.

San Francisco span remains closed

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — It was trains, boats or roundabout routes, all of them packed, for Bay Area commuters today as the long weekend shutdown of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge spilled into the workweek.

The bridge had been scheduled to reopen this morning after crews discovered a crack Saturday, but that timetable has been been pushed back to 5 a.m. Wednesday, said Randy Iwasaki, director of the California Department of Transportation.

"We are going to need your patience for one more day," Iwasaki said Monday.

The 73-year-old bridge, which carries about 260,000 vehicles a day between San Francisco and heavily populated cities to its east, was closed over the Labor Day weekend so a football-field-sized, 3,300-ton section of the eastern span could be cut out and replaced with a new double-deck section. The work was part of a seismic upgrade and had to be completed 150 feet above the ground.

The new section connects the bridge with a short detour that will be used until a new east span is completed by 2013.

Crews used the opportunity to inspect the bridge and found a 2-inch-thick steel link cracked halfway through.

Bomb in Iraq kills police chief, 4 aides

BAGHDAD (AP) — A roadside bomb targeting the police chief of a northern Iraqi town that is home to a large Shiite population killed 5 people today, including the chief and four of his bodyguards, a police official said.

The attack in the town of Armili targeted a convoy carrying the town's police chief, Zaid Hussein Khalaf, said Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qader of the police in Kirkuk, a city further north.

Armili, about 100 miles north of Baghdad, is a town with a population of 26,000, mostly Shiites from Iraq's Turkoman ethnic minority. More than 100 people were killed in 2007 when a suicide truck bomber targeted a town market there.

Meanwhile, a Health Ministry official escaped an assassination attempt when a roadside bomb hit his convoy in the eastern part of Baghdad, but one ministry employee died in the blast, Iraqi police said.

Eight bystanders and four people in the convoy were also wounded in the attack that appeared directed at Dr. Ali Bustan al-Fartosi, who is in charge of eastern Baghdad's medical facilities.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' jackpot at least $225,000

HARRISBURG (AP) – Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $225,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Monday's game.

Lottery officials said 48 players matched four numbers and won $280.50 each; 2,209 players matched three numbers and won $10 each; and 26,812 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

The Valley Independent Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA — DAILY NUMBERS

Date	Game	Numbers
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009	DAY PICK 3:	9-9-6
	NIGHT PICK 3:	2-5-5
	DAY PICK BIG 4:	5-5-9-7
	NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	9-4-3-3
	QUINTO:	4-8-8-3-1
	QUINTO:	5-7-6-5-5
	TREASURE HUNT:	4-9-14-20-22
	CASH 5:	2-19-20-25-35
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009	DAY PICK 3:	8-2-2
	NIGHT PICK 3:	5-7-9
	DAY PICK BIG 4:	7-4-5-1
	NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	7-7-3-9
	QUINTO:	8-8-1-3-5
	QUINTO:	4-7-0-0-2
	TREASURE HUNT:	8-12-19-22-24
	CASH 5:	5-18-19-30-39
	MIX & MATCH:	11-1-18-9-2

OHIO — DAILY NUMBERS

Date	Game	Numbers
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009	DAY PICK 3:	9-0-5
	NIGHT PICK 3:	7-1-0
	DAY PICK 4:	7-1-9-2
	NIGHT PICK 4:	3-2-9-1
	ROLLING CASH 5:	1-5-18-21-39
	CLASSIC LOTTO:	11-15-24-34-40-44

WEST VIRGINIA — DAILY NUMBERS

Date	Game	Numbers
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009	DAILY 3:	2-7-6
	DAILY 4:	9-6-9-6
	CASH 25:	14-15-16-17-18-25

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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OUR OPINION

Seniors have alternative to AARP

DISSATISFACTION, if not downright anger, over ObamaCare among seniors could be just the adrenaline shot needed for the conservative alternative to AARP.

The American Seniors Association (ASA) is offering a membership incentive for an estimated 60,000 seniors who since July 1 have abandoned AARP. The latter endorses health care reform but insists it doesn't — at least not yet — endorse a specific bill.

For an organization that boasts 40 million card-carrying seniors, AARP isn't terribly concerned about shifts in membership. But every worthwhile transition to something superior begins with that all-important first step. And more seniors, fed up with the status quo, are taking it.

Over the years AARP has been liberals' elder errand boy, staunchly opposing reform of Social Security's Ponzi scheme. Yet it provided President Obama an online forum to promote the hijacking of all citizens' health care.

In contrast, ASA (americanseniors.org) has stood firm against national health care. It seeks reforms to Medicare, Social Security and a punishing tax code. And it opposes illegal immigration.

Says ASA President Stuart Barton, "President Obama must think the American people are idiots if he thinks health care rationing, restrictions and regulations ... will save money and result in better preventative medicine."

So, whose interests are being served by AARP? Today, seniors have a real choice.

Do you agree? Do you disagree? The Valley Independent wants to hear from you. E-mail us at valleyletters@tribweb. com or write a letter to the editor. Include your phone number to allow for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit.

ANOTHER VIEW

The Daily Telegraph, London, on Afghanistan:

The metaphor chosen by General Stanley McChrystal to describe America's plight in Afghanistan is both graphic and depressing.

The commander of US and Nato troops likened his force to a bull charging a matador (the Taliban) and being weakened with every sword thrust. He also warned that the Allied strategy was not working, because areas cleared of insurgents were not then held; meanwhile, the Afghan people were undergoing a "crisis of confidence" because their lives were not being made better after eight years of fighting.

It is a bleak assessment, and will no doubt pave the way for a request for even more soldiers to be deployed, in addition to the extra 30,000 President Obama has already sent in. The general said that while the situation was serious, success was achievable, but only if there was "increased unity of effort" a lightly coded reproof to those NATO members, notably France and Germany, that have failed to pull their weight. The general's strategic approach is sound. ...

Alongside the security effort, the notion of negotiating with the more malleable Taliban leaders is beginning to gain traction. David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, has raised it with Hillary Clinton, and Downing Street was pushing the idea during Gordon Brown's weekend visit to British forces.

An accommodation is probably inevitable if order is to be established, though in a land run by tribal warlords, it will not be easily achieved. Meanwhile, with public opinion in this country and the U.S. turning against the war, General McChrystal may not have as much time as he would like to achieve his objectives.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Reform health care Kennedy's way

Morton **KONDRACKE**

Among the most common themes in the tributes paid to the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was his willingness to negotiate across party lines and achieve his liberal goals incrementally, if necessary.

It's time for his fellow Democrats and President Barack Obama to apply those principles to health care reform.

So far, except in the Senate Finance Committee, there's been almost zero Kennedyism applied to the health care debate.

The House Democratic majority has produced its health legislation with a contempt for the minority that's customary for that chamber — but inappropriate when huge changes for one-sixth of the U.S. economy are in play.

The Senate committee Kennedy formerly chaired — Health, Education, Labor and Pensions — likewise produced a government-heavy bill with no GOP support.

It is a "Kennedy bill," representing the "liberal lion's" fondest hopes for universal coverage, a "public plan" that would eventually lead to Canadian-style medicine, and a huge cost.

But the chances are that, had Kennedy lived, he would have used that bill as the basis for negotiation and would have accepted less than his ideal in order to make progress.

For, as David Brooks wrote in The New York Times, "Kennedy never abandoned his ambitious ideals, but his ability to forge compromises and champion gradual, incremental change created the legacy everybody is celebrating today: community health centers, the National Cancer Institute, the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Meals on Wheels program, the renewal of the Voting Rights Act and the No Child Left Behind Act."

Brooks left out the 1996 Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), in which he and former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., created COBRA, the program allowing laid-off employees to keep their health insurance, and the 1997 State Children's Health Insurance Program, passed with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, as co-sponsor.

Obama, who got elected promising to heal the nation's partisan breaches, has failed to insist that Republicans and their ideas be incorporated into health care reform.

So without buy-in, Republicans have been bent on playing up the flaws in Democratic health care plans. Many of them might be doing it anyway, but Obama hasn't met them a quarter-way, let alone half.

And the result is that the opposition has sewn severe doubts about the whole reform enterprise — some of it legitimate (such as worry about the "public plan" and cost) and some of it paranoid, such as "death panels" allegedly deciding which seniors will live or die.

Liberals still dream of ramming their kind of bill through the Senate with 51 votes through the budget reconciliation process, but that — if it's even possible parliamentary — will ensure that Obama matches George W. Bush as a polarizing president.

The better way is for Obama at some stage, the earlier the better, to take some sound outside advice and redirect the health debate toward the center.

Some good principles were laid out in a National Press Club speech in 2008 by Donald B. Snow, CEO of Medco, the pharmacy-management company.

"First," he said, we need to keep it simple. "Complex solutions always fail." Second, we need to phase in incremental changes. "Revolutionary reform is rejected by our society."

"Finally, and most importantly, we must define the roles of the private sector and the government. ... The government's function is to promulgate and regulate. The private sector's function is to operate and innovate."

Another piece of good advice came from former Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., in a recent piece in The New York Times.

He counseled passing health reform the way he, President Ronald Reagan and others enacted tax reform in 1986 — by combining top priorities of both parties.

For health care, that would mean universal coverage for Democrats and significant medical malpractice reform for Republicans.

Republicans also favor, as should many Democrats, enabling uninsured individuals and the self-employed to get the same tax advantages as do people insured by their employers.

Practically everyone — including health insurance companies — agree that the insurance market needs to be reformed to eliminate exclusions based on pre-existing conditions, denial of coverage to the sick and placing caps on coverage.

If those mandates are imposed, premiums will rise for everyone who has insurance — unless there is a mandate that everyone have insurance, including young, healthy people who now think they can go without.

> **Obama, who got elected promising to heal the nation's partisan breaches, has failed to insist that Republicans and their ideas be incorporated into health care reform.**

Reports have it that Obama plans to change his emphasis in selling reform this fall to the moral case that 47 million Americans should not go uninsured.

It's the right strategy, but he should combine it with the self-interest argument that covering everyone will hold down premium increases for those who already have insurance.

It will also hold down costs if a new malpractice system is created — including specialized "medical courts" to replace juries — so that doctors stop practicing "defensive medicine" to avoid getting sued.

And, to achieve bipartisanship, Obama will have to jettison a Medicare-like public plan, but to appease liberals he could resurrect the idea of a "trigger" that would put a public plan into place if insurance companies fail to deliver on required reforms.

Edward Kennedy surely would not have been happy with such concessions, but would he have made them to achieve universal coverage, the top priority of his career? I bet he'd be negotiating with Republicans on it as we speak. And so should Obama.

Rendell causing damage to Pennsylvania

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

I don't know if anyone else remembers when Gov. Rendell put a hiring freeze in effect. Does anyone also remember he hired at least eight of his friends to jobs worth at least $200,000 to $300,000 a year?

He is so adamant about the fact that he wants a $31 billion or so budget and I am definitely for the $28 billion or $29 billion budget along with the state legislators.

I also wonder if he is keeping the budget from passing so that when all of the state workers get their back pay, do you realize how much taxes will be taken out? Say a worker would be paid $5,000 in back pay; do you realize how much taxes would be taken out? I am sure he is just waiting for that.

I, along with most people that I know, can't believe he is even still in office. If I am right this has happened every year that he has been in.

And he has the audacity to say that all state workers should be thanking him because they are able to get interest-free loans, which I have heard the banks are very rude about and difficult for them when they try.

Everybody in Pennsylvania needs to think. He is only trying to help himself. Maybe because he knows he is not going to be here for another term, so he just wants to do the most damage he can. Because I know anyone who would vote for him, even if they could, would be out of their minds.

He shouldn't have been in here now. I think it is a shame how he treats us. From the outrageous tobacco taxes —which by the way, a carton of cigarettes in North Carolina is only $34 compared to $55 here, — to how he is treating our state workers and everybody who counts on the programs that cannot function due to the impasse.

Thomas Bulko
Monongahela

NEWS

Ex-PennDOT whistleblower still fights to recover taxpayer dollars

Bill Arnold insists he didn't set out to become a crusader. It just worked out that way.

By BRIAN BOWLING
For The Valley Independent
bbowling@tribweb.com

Bill Arnold didn't set out nine years ago to become a crusader for recovering taxpayer dollars.

He says he was just doing his job as a PennDOT construction manager.

"One day a fellow that was working for me came into the office and said, 'I have this fellow on the job, and he doesn't know as much as he should,'" said Arnold, 66, of South Strabane.

The "fellow on the job" was one of the private inspectors the state hires to ensure roads and bridges are built correctly.

Every state contract with a consulting engineer firm requires a certain number of inspectors and a minimum level of qualifications for each inspector.

The state pays contractors according to the level of experience of their employees.

"I didn't think anything of it," Arnold said of the first complaint.

"Maybe a couple of months later, somebody else made another comment and I thought, 'Well, I'll check.'"

His check revealed evidence a company had padded the credentials of one of its inspectors. Arnold sent a memo to his supervisor that set off the chain of events that led to his demotion, a whistle-blower lawsuit against PennDOT and his pending 6-year-old federal lawsuit seeking to recover tax dollars he says were overpaid to companies.

"To me, it's so obvious that the taxpayers were robbed," said Arnold, who retired from PennDOT in 2004 after about 35 years on the job. "All you need is one good eye and you can see that the consultants should reimburse the taxpayers."

A lawyer for one of the companies, CMC Engineering, says Arnold's allegations against the company are based on minor paperwork violations comparable to a motorist failing to get his vehicle registration renewed on time.

"It's not a substantive issue at all," said attorney Paul Logan.

The original lawsuit named 22 companies, but Arnold dropped 13 from the case because he had no evidence to support his claims, Logan said. The remaining defendants repeatedly asked the court to dismiss the case because Arnold can't provide specific instances where they padded credentials, Logan said.

Lawyers for the other eight companies couldn't be reached.

A federal judge dismissed the case in 2007, but the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in May overturned that decision and reinstated the case. Jon Pushinsky, one of Arnold's lawyers, said a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and congressional action have given Arnold's complaint more teeth by removing some of the technical hurdles needed to prove federal contract fraud. Congress passed and President Obama signed the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act in May to help curb misuse of the billions of dollars the government is spending in an attempt to revive the economy.

While the companies try to downplay Arnold's allegations, they've spent six years trying to keep him from discovering how much they overbilled, Pushinsky said.

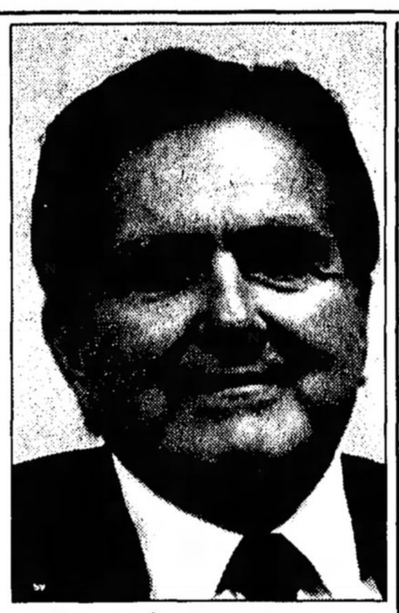
If Arnold wins the case, the companies would have to pay back three times the amount they were overpaid plus an $11,000 fine for each instance of flawed credentials. Arnold would receive 25 to 30 percent of the damages. The federal government would receive the rest.

Arnold bases his lawsuit on an audit he did at the agency. It covered federally funded contracts performed in Allegheny, Beaver and Lawrence counties between 2000 and 2002. He says he found about 25 percent of the contracts he reviewed had padded credentials costing the state and federal government about $800,000.

A subsequent statewide review by PennDOT discovered 139 of 600 inspectors had flawed credentials.

Arnold said PennDOT didn't find "wrongdoing" with any company.

He claimed in his 2001 whistle-blower lawsuit that PennDOT officials pressured him to stop looking into private inspector credentials. The state paid Arnold $500,000 in 2005 to settle the lawsuit. As part of the settlement agreement, neither side can discuss the case.



Bill Arnold

Court records and a 2003 investigation by the Tribune-Review showed that two contractors had hired the wives of PennDOT officials and another contractor bought clothing from a PennDOT official's side business. Contractors took PennDOT officials on golf outings and sporting events, the whistle-blower lawsuit said.

When Arnold's lawsuit against PennDOT exposed the practice, PennDOT officials said they were changing policy to discourage gifts from contractors and more rigorously check inspector credentials.

Pushinsky said he and co-counsel James Ashton may find out if the lawsuit ever gets to the stage where he can examine company records and question their officials. Instead of relying on company self-audits or PennDOT reviews, "we do the investigation," he said.

www.valleyindependent.com

Ohiopyle Borough eyes stimulus-funded facelift

Federal government picking up the tab for $1.3 million improvement project.

By JENNIFER REEGER
For The Valley Independent
jreeger@tribweb.com

Brick-paved parking areas that filter stormwater to rain gardens will be coming soon to Ohiopyle Borough, which will be improved with $1.3 million in federal stimulus funds.

The Ohiopyle Green Infrastructure Project is among the steps being taken to confront issues facing the borough, home to Ohiopyle State Park.

The 19,000-acre park draws 1.5 million visitors a year, burdening the limited resources of the town of 76 people.

The park and the borough have been engaged in a master planning process to devise environmentally friendly improvements to roads, sewerage, storm water management, energy sources and parking.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, which is spearheading the project, is accepting bids for the construction of paving systems for parking along several streets in the borough, installation of rain barrels at most buildings and rain gardens for stormwater management.

Jim Segedy, planning coordinator for the council, said the project will provide some much-needed defined parking areas in the borough.

He said it also will take a heavy burden off the existing sewer system, which is inundated with storm water runoff.

All property owners will be able to have rain barrels installed and have downspouts and gutters repaired if they choose, Segedy said.

Along Sherman Street and parts of Lincoln and Sheridan streets, brick parking areas will be constructed.

On one hand, the areas will finally define parking, which hasn't been done in the past.

In addition, rain water will filter off the streets and through the bricks into a piping system that will divert it to rain gardens to be strategically placed throughout the borough.

In addition, sidewalks will be built.

Profile (FROM PAGE THREE)

universities. Each student also completes an individualized research project as part of the requirements.

Altemare felt she met the requirements of the program so she applied, but she admits being surprised when she was selected.

"I was surprised and excited," she said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for me."

She hopes that the internship will help launch her career in the political world.

"Hopefully I can get some interviews in Harrisburg and this will open up some networking here for me," she said. "I would love to get a job in government and this will be a great stepping stone.

"I've always wanted to work in D.C., but I love this city. I feel comfortable here and I can see myself working here."

She is the daughter of Lisa Baker Altemare and the granddaughter of Mary Moodey.

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TV LISTINGS

Mother-in-law keeps mum about name-calling umbrage

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: During the 10 years I have been with my husband, I have called my mother-in-law "Martha." I have just learned that she has been harboring resentment about it because she hadn't given me "permission" to call her by her first name. Apparently she would like me to call her "Ms. Smith." I didn't hear it from her, but from my new sister-in-law who does call her Ms. Smith and has been instructed to continue doing so.

I don't remember our first meeting or when I started calling her Martha. I had no idea she has been offended this entire time. Now I'm not sure what to do. Should I ask her about it? We're not particularly close, and it would be an awkward conversation. My husband is no help. He thinks we're both being silly. — **THE OTHER MS. SMITH**

DEAR O.M.S.: Martha appears to be not only off-putting, but also intimidating. Rather than speak her mind and make her preferences known, she nurses grievances in silence and talks behind people's backs. Your cowardly husband should admit there's a problem and try to build bridges instead of dismissing your concerns as "silly." (Does he call her "Ms. Smith," too?)

Pick up the phone and call Martha. Tell her what your sister-in-law said and calmly ask if it's true. If she says yes, ask why she didn't tell you herself years ago — because if she had, you would have respected her wishes. Then, with a smile in your voice, assure her that "Ms. Smith" is what she'll be hearing in the future. (At least that's what you'll call her to her face.) It shouldn't cause a problem because you're not particularly close, and I assume your chats and contacts with her are infrequent.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been happily married for 16 years. We have one son, age 12. While writing our wills, my husband told me that his wish is to be cremated and his ashes scattered in the ocean off the beach near where he grew up.

I'd like us to be together after we have both passed on, but his beach holds no fond memories for me. I would much prefer to be buried in our local cemetery with a headstone so our son can come to "visit" both of us. I don't want to spend eternity in a cemetery plot without my husband. Any suggestions? — **PLANNING AHEAD IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR PLANNING AHEAD: Yes, one would be that you and your spouse continue talking about this until you can reach a meeting of the minds regarding the disposition of your remains. If you can't agree, then what happens to them will be the decision of the surviving spouse.

Another thought: You are basing your preference on what your son may — or may not — want to do after he reaches adulthood. While many people find comfort in visiting their parents' graves, others find the idea depressive. Also, your son may wind up with a career that takes him to Texas, California, Hawaii or even farther away from the town in which he is being raised.

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper letter salutation for a married couple where the husband has recently undergone gender reassignment surgery? (They were "John and Millie Jones.") — **WONDERING IN KEY WEST**

DEAR WONDERING: Because the husband is no longer John Jones and is now "Linda," for example, I would address the envelope to Ms. Linda Jones and Ms. Millie Jones — placing their names in alphabetical order. And in the salutation I would write, "Dear Linda and Millie."

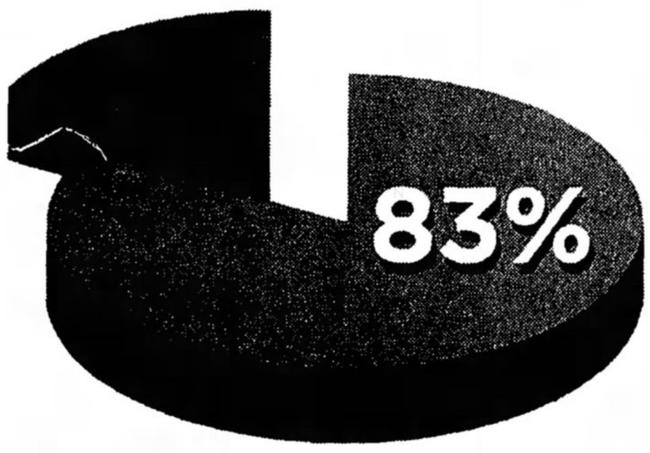
(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054.)

TUESDAY EVENING — SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS 2 KDKA 7 WTRF 10 WTAJ	2 KDKA-TV News at Six 7 News 10 WTAJ News at 6	7 10 CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	2 CBS Evening News-Couric 7 Entertainment 10 Inside	2 The Insider (N) 7 Inside Edition 10 Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Semper Fidelis" A security breach results in the death of an ICE agent.		(:01) Big Brother 11 The veto competition. (N)		The Mentalist "Russet Potatoes" A criminal mastermind hypnotizes people to do his bidding.		2 KDKA-TV News at 11 7 News 10 WTAJ News at 11	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman Tony Blair; Julianna Margulies. (N)		(:37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Neil Patrick Harris; Spencer Day. (N)		2 (:37) Extra (N) 7 10 (:37) Paid Program	2 (:07) Party Food Ideas! 7 (:07) Up to the Minute 10 (:07) Paid Program	2 (:37) Paid Program 10 (:37) Up to the Minute (N)
ABC 4 WTAE 23 WATM	4 Ch. 4 Action News at 6 23 Insider	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	4 Inside Edition 23 Jeopardy!	4 Entertainment Tonight 23 Wheel of Fortune	Shark Tank A Californian wants to franchise his graffiti-removal business.		Shaq Vs. Shaquille O'Neal takes on fighter Oscar de la Hoya in a five-round exhibition match. (N)		(:01) Primetime: Family Secrets Jon Gosselin; elder abuse and fraud. (N)		4 Ch. 4 Action News at 11 23 News	(:35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Jennifer Connelly; Jeff Ross; Boys Like Girls. (N)		4 (:06) Oprah Winfrey 23 (:06) Paid Program	23 (:35) Paid Program	4 (:06) Paid Program 23 Jerry Springer	4 (:36) Channel 4 Action News at 11
NBC 6 WJAC 9 WTOV 11 WPXI	6 WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) 9 News (N) 11 Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	6 Entertainment Tonight (N) 9 11 Jeopardy!	6 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 9 11 Wheel of Fortune	America's Got Talent Four acts advance.		America's Got Talent Semifinalists perform. (Live)				6 WJAC-TV News 9 News 11 Ch. 11 News	(:35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien Kate Beckinsale; Richard Lewis. (N)		(:37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Elijah Wood; John Fogerty. (N)		(:36) Last Call With Carson Daly	(:05) Poker After Dark Tom Dwan; Patrik Antonius; Howard Lederer; Eli Elezra; Ilari Sahamies; Phil Ivey. (N)	
FOX 8 WWCP 53 WPGH	8 The Simpsons 53 Two and a Half Men	8 That '70s Show 53 Frasier	8 Seinfeld 53 Two and a Half Men	8 Everybody Loves Raymond 53 Seinfeld	Hell's Kitchen The teams are asked to make crepes. (N) (PA)		More to Love Luke and the three remaining women head to Hawaii. (N)		8 News 53 Channel 11 News	8 (:35) Everybody Loves Raymond	8 (:05) Seinfeld 53 Seinfeld	8 (:35) Frasier 53 Scrubs	8 (12:05) Paid Program 53 Scrubs	8 (:35) Paid Program 53 Paid Program	8 (:05) Paid Program 53 Paid Program	8 (:35) Paid Program 53 Party Food Ideas!	8 (:05) Paid Program 53 George Lopez	8 Paid Prog. 53 House of Payne
13 WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	OnQ	Nova "Mystery of the Megavolcano" (DVS)		Yellowstone: Land to Life	Previews-Parks	P.O.V. "English Surgeon" (N)			Charlie Rose (N)		OnQ	Yellowstone: Land to Life	Previews-Parks	Nova "Mystery of the Megavolcano" (DVS)	
19 WPCW	The People's Court (N)		Everybody-Raymond	Everybody-Raymond	90210 "To New Beginnings!"		Melrose Place "Pilot" (Series Premiere) (N)		10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program
22 WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	Street Patrol	Street Patrol	Jail	Jail	TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law Order: CI		Work Home	Paid Prog.	Bernie Mac	My Wife	Half & Half	Half & Half
40 WPCB	The 700 Club		Focus 4 "Answers"		Travel Road	Master	Joel Osteen	Joni, Frnds	Discovery	Quick Study	Nwswtch	The Place for Miracles		Master	Focus 4		Gaither Homecoming Hour	
59 WBGN	TBA	RENO 911!	TBA	Paid Prog.	Eye Eye	Eye Eye	Eye Eye	Eye Eye	Cheaters	RENO 911!	Punk'd	Cribs	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
A&E	CSI: Miami "Losing Face"		Criminal Minds		The First 48		The First 48 (N)		The Cleaner (N)		The Cleaner		The First 48		The First 48		The Cleaner	
ABCFAM	My Wife	My Wife	'70s Show	'70s Show	10 Things	Ruby	★★ "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen" (2004)				The 700 Club		Greek "Our Fathers"		Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
AMC	(5:00) ★★ "For Love of the Game" (1999, Drama)				★★ "Stripes" (1981, Comedy) Bill Murray, Harold Ramis.					★★ "Major League" (1989) Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen.					Mad Men		(:02) ★★ "Stripes" (1981)	
ANPL	Weird, True & Freaky		Raw Nature		Killing for a Living		Animal Nightmares		Ratzilla Dog-sized rat.		Killing for a Living		Animal Nightmares		Ratzilla Dog-sized rat.		Raw Nature	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den (N)		BBC World News America		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den		You Are What You Eat		Dragon's Den	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live "Dr. Roxanne Shante"				Get School	Tiny & Toya	The Game	The Game	Frankie	Frankie	The Wendy Williams Show		★★ "Beauty Shop" (2005) Queen Latifah.				The Wendy Williams Show	
BRAVO	Million Dollar Listing		Flipping Out		Flipping Out		Flipping Out		Flipping Out "Bad Mojo"		Flipping Out "Bad Mojo"		Flipping Out "Bad Mojo"		The Rachel Zoe Project		Top Chef: Las Vegas	
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home		Extreme Makeover: Home		Schooled	Cribs	The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee	
CNBC	Mad Money		Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		Cruise Inc.: Big Money		Swoosh! Inside Nike		Mad Money		Fast Money		Cruise Inc.: Big Money		GRC	Paid Prog.
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	Brian Regan: Standing Up		Scrubs	Scrubs	Schooled	Futurama	South Park	South Park	Katt Williams American Hustle: The Movie				Hart: Grown Little Man		South Park	Futurama	Katt Williams Amer. Hustle	
CSPAN	(5:00) House of Representatives				Tonight From Washington						Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How-Made	How-Made	Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		The Colony (N)		Swords: Life on the Line		Swords: Life on the Line		The Colony		A Haunting "Ghost Hunter"	
DISNEY	Phineas-Ferb	Zack & Cody	Wizards	Montana	★★ "A Goofy Movie" (1995)			Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Montana	Wizards	That's-Raven	Life Derek	Cory	Replace	Kim Possible	Emperor	Dragon
E!	The Soup	Soup	E! News (N)	The Daily 10	★★ "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.				Kourtney	Kourtney	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	Kourtney	Kourtney	Comedians	Girls	Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter Special (Live)		2009 World Series of Poker		2009 World Series of Poker		Baseball Tonight		SportsCenter (Live)		Baseball	NFL Live (N)	SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)	
ESPNC	NBA Basketball: 1994 Pistons at Spurs				NBA Basketball: 1999 Finals Game 5 -- Spurs at Knicks				NBA Basketball: 2003 Finals Game 6 -- Nets at Spurs				American Gladiators		Boxing		Boxing: Clay vs. Johnson	
ESPN2	U.S. Open Scoreboard		Tennis U.S. Open -- Men's Round of 16 and Women's Quarterfinals. (Live)								Hey Rookie, NFL		NASCAR	SportsNation (Live)		NFL Films	2009 World Series of Poker	
EWTN	Choices	Marie	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope		Christ in City	Priesthood	Daily Mass: Our Lady		Mother Angelica-Classic		Threshold of Hope	
FNC	Special Report		FOX Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		Hannity (N)		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		Glenn Beck	
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge		Cakes	Cakes	Unwrapped	Best Thing	Chopped (N)		Good Eats	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Best Thing	Chopped		Good Eats	Unwrapped
FSN	In My Words	Pregame	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.						Pirates Post.	Final Score	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh Pirates.				Final Score	Final Score	Sport Science	
FX	(5:00) ★★★ "Hellboy" (2004) John Hurt			★★ "Ghost Rider" (2007) Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes. Premiere.					Sons of Anarchy		(:09) Sons of Anarchy "Albification"			'70s Show	Sons of Anarchy		Paid Prog.	Hair Club
GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	Lessons	Inside PGA	Approach	Top 10	Arnold Palmer: Golf's Heart and Soul				Approach	Golf Central	Arnold Palmer: Golf's Heart and Soul				Approach	Inside PGA
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal		Family Feud	Family Feud	Lingo	Millionaire	Catch 21	Newlywed	Deal or No Deal		Be a Millionaire		Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Touched by an Angel		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Cheers	Cheers	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV	To Sell	Ext Living	House	House	First Place	First Place	House	Bang, Buck	House	Property	Intervention	First Place	First Place	First Place	House	Bang, Buck	House	Property
HIST	Warriors "Zulu Siege"		Modern Marvels		The Universe		The Universe (N)		How the Earth Was Made		Mega Disasters		The Universe		The Universe		How the Earth Was Made	
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy		Medium		Medium		Medium		Medium "In the Rough"		Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Frasier	Frasier	Will & Grace	Grey's Anatomy		Paid Prog.
MSNBC	The Ed Show (N)		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show	
MTV	Parental	Parental	Best Dance Crew		Schooled	MTV Cribs	Best Dance Crew		Daddy	Daddy	True Life		Best Dance Crew		Pranked	Pranked	Daddy	Daddy
NICK	iCarly	iCarly	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Schooled	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
OXY	Next Model	America's Next Top Model		★★★ "Gia" (1998) Angelina Jolie, Elizabeth Mitchell.					Addicted to Beauty (N)		★★★ "Gia" (1998) Angelina Jolie, Elizabeth Mitchell.					Naughty	The Tyra Banks Show	
PCN	PCN Tours		PCN PM - pcntv.com		PCN Primetime - pcntv.com				PCN Evening - pcntv.com				PCN Late Night - pcntv.com				Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now		News	NurseTV	NightTalk		PCNC News		NightTalk		Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News		Paid Prog.	NightTalk	
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "The Curse"		Warehouse 13 "Duped"		Warehouse 13 "Regrets"		Warehouse 13 (N)		ECW (Live)		Warehouse 13		Stargate SG-1		Lost "Deus Ex Machina"		The X-Files	
SPIKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		Schooled	UFC: Access	UFC Unleashed (N)		Surviving Disaster "Fire"		Surviving Disaster "Fire"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly	Disorderly
TBS	Raymond	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The Office	The Office	House-Payne	House-Payne	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	★★ "Deliver Us From Eva" (2003) LL Cool J.			
TCM	★★ "Rhapsody" (1954) Elizabeth Taylor.				★★★ "Five Fingers" (1952, Suspense) James Mason.				★★★ "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" (1952, Adventure)				★ "Beneath the 12-Mile Reef" (1953) Robert Wagner.				"The Naked and the Dead"	
TLC	What Not to Wear		Ultimate Cake Off		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	18 Kids	18 Kids	Masters of Reception (N)		18 Kids	18 Kids	Masters of Reception		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Ultimate Cake Off	
TNT	Bones "Judas on a Pole"		Bones		Bones		Bones		HawthoRNe "Yielding"		Saving Grace		HawthoRNe "Yielding"		Saving Grace		Cold Case "The Badlands"	
TOON	Johnny Test	Johnny Test	Flapjack	Chowder	Total Drama	Total Drama	Stoked	6TEEN	King of Hill	King of Hill	Family Guy	Family Guy	Chicken	Hungerforce	The Oblongs	Home	King of Hill	King of Hill
TRAVEL	Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Zimmern's Bizarre World		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Zimmern's Bizarre World		Zimmern's Bizarre World		Anthony Bourdain		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Zimmern's Bizarre World	
TRUTV	Cops	Cops	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Rehab: Party at Hard Rock		Rehab: Party at Hard Rock		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	The Investigators		Rehab: Party at Hard Rock	
TVLAND	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Schooled	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Married...	Roseanne "Body by Jake"		Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne
USA	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Psych "High Noon-ish"		"7 Seconds" (2005)	
VH1	(4:30) ★ "Coyote Ugly"		Brooke	Brooke	Schooled	TO Show	TO Show	TO Show	Tool Academy		My Antonio Hula love story.		Real Chance of Love		40 Most Shocking Celebrity Divorces			
VS.	Sports Soup	Sports Take	Sports	Sports	★ "Bloodsport" (1988) Jean-Claude Van Damme.				Sports Soup	Sports	★ "Bloodsport" (1988) Jean-Claude Van Damme.				Cycling	Sports Soup	Sports	Sports
WE	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Ghost Whisperer		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women (N)		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women		Secret Lives of Women	
WGN	Becker	Becker	Funniest Home Videos		★★★ "Parenthood" (1989) Steve Martin, Mary Steenburgen.					NewsRadio	Scrubs	Scrubs	The Bob & Tom Show		Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Steve Wilkos Show	
ENC	(:10) ★★★ "Bounce" (2000) Gwyneth Paltrow.				★★ "The Crush" (1993) Cary Elwes.			★★ "Step Up 2 the Streets" (2008)			(:10) ★★ "Mimic" (1997, Horror) Mira Sorvino.				★★ "Weekend at Bernie's II" (1993)			Throw Ma
HBO	★★★★ "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" (1982)				★★ "The Secret Life of Bees" (2008) Queen Latifah.				Curb	George Lopez: Tall, Dark & Chicano			Mayweather	(:35) ★★★ "Youth Knows No Pain"			(:05) "Little Children"	
MAX	★ "Mirrors" (2008, Horror) Kiefer Sutherland.				★★ "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" (2008)				★★ "Sleeping With the Enemy" (1991)		(:40) Lingerie		Co-Ed Conf.	(:45) ★ "Mirrors" (2008, Horror) Kiefer Sutherland.				Mummy
SHOW	★★★ "Lars and the Real Girl" (2007) Ryan Gosling.				★★ "From Dusk Till Dawn" (1996) Harvey Keitel.				★★★ "Scream" (1996, Horror) Neve Campbell. iTV.				★★ "The Mist" (2007, Horror) Thomas Jane. iTV.				(:15) "Deep Evil" (2003)	
STARZ	(:10) ★★ "You Don't Mess With the Zohan" (2008)				(:05) ★★ "Pineapple Express" (2008) Seth Rogen.				Starz Inside (N)		★★ "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story"			Crash 2	(:05) ★★ "Quarantine" (2008)			Starz Inside
TMC	Passion	★ "Nobody's Baby" (2001, Comedy) Skeet Ulrich.				(:25) "Mortuary" (2005) Dan Byrd.			★★ "Hostel Part II" (2007) Roger Bart		(:35) ★★ "The Hunting Party" (2007) Richard Gere.					"The Hustle" (2000) Bobbie Phillips.		

HOTFACTS by YAHOO! hotjobs



of new grads say benefits are their top priority in accepting a job.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs college survey, May 2007

Boost your benefits by finding a job at PAJobMatch.com

release dates: September 5-11 36-1 (09)

The Mini Page®

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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His 1609 Voyage

Henry's Hudson

Can you imagine yourself as a young Native American boy or girl? You live on the East Coast of the United States in the early 1600s. Your family is part of a tribe called the Mohicans.

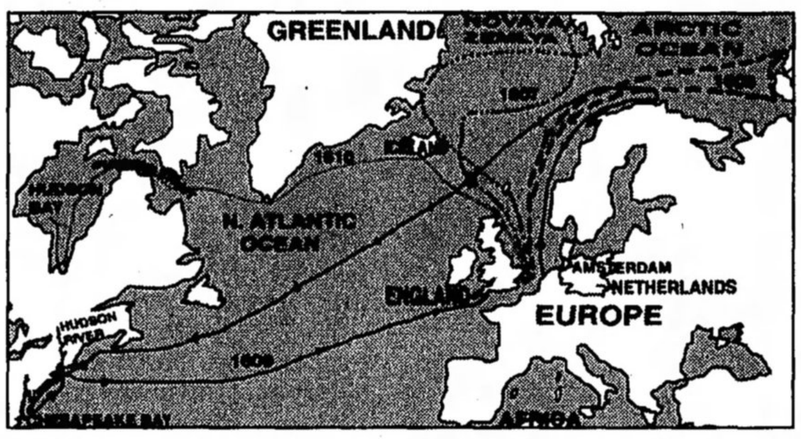
For food, your family catches fish and birds. You grow vegetables and hunt for nuts and fruits. Sometimes you trade items with other tribes.

Members of your tribe walk or use canoes on the rivers and ocean to move around.

Strange sight

One day in early fall, as your family is storing foods to eat during the cold winter months, a ship arrives near your settlement. You've never seen a boat of this size. It's about 85 feet long and 16 feet wide, and it's made of wood. Tall masts have six sails billowing from them.

About 20 grown men come ashore. They look different from your family and friends. They don't have any women or children with them.



Henry Hudson made four voyages in search of a way to the Far East from Europe.

..... 1607
— — 1608
——— 1609
ooooooooooo 1610-11

Looking for a route

Henry Hudson

The men on the ship were led by Henry Hudson, an English explorer. His ship the *Half Moon* had left Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, in April 1609 and arrived at the mouth of the Hudson River in early September.

This voyage was the third of four trips Hudson made, in 1607, 1608, 1609 and 1610-11.

Earlier failures

In 1607, Hudson was looking for a way to get from Europe to Asia without sailing around the southern coast of Africa. People in Europe liked items brought from India and China, especially spices to help preserve food.

At first, Hudson thought he could sail right over the North Pole to get to the Far East. But the ice and freezing temperatures made him turn back.

In 1608, he tried a route along the northern coast of Russia. When ice blocked this route, he turned toward North America. But his crew forced him to turn back toward England.

Mini Spy . . .

Mini Spy and her friends are re-enacting Henry Hudson's landing. See if you can find: • lemon slice • letter D • number 3 • banana • broom • golf club • ladder • fish • word MINI • letter A • top hat • ruler • cat • pencil • bird • mushroom • man in the moon • exclamation mark

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Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Crunchy Granola Snack

You'll need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup chopped peanuts
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds (without shells)
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup crispy rice cereal
- 2/3 cup honey
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

What to do:

1. Mix oats, peanuts, seeds, coconut and cereal together in a medium bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine honey, oil, sugar and cinnamon. Pour into oat mixture and mix well.
3. Spread the mixture evenly in a shallow baking pan coated with cooking spray.
4. Bake at 300 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes until lightly browned. Serve as a topping for yogurt or fruit.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Asheba

Asheba has made many CDs for kids. He sings music in the calypso (kuh-LIP-so) style of the islands in the Caribbean (care-uh-BEE-an) Sea. Calypso is energetic music that often pokes fun at powerful people or things going on.

Asheba was born in Trinidad, an island in the Caribbean. He started singing in his choir in elementary school. When he was a teenager, he formed his own band. He began singing with calypso bands and learned to play the steel drum.

He moved to New York City in 1989. He began playing his music in the New York subway system.

Later, he began performing more for children. His songs have been included in a Putumayo Kids CD, which highlights music from around the world. He often visits children's wards of hospitals to entertain.

Asheba loves baking and making jam. He lives in Oakland, Calif.

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Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Hershel McGriff

Birthdate: 12-14-27 Hometown: Bridal Veil, Ore.

Ordinarily, nobody raves about the person who finishes 13th in a car race. But when that person is 81 years old, it creates more than a roar of excitement. That's what happened recently when Hershel McGriff placed 13th in the Portland (Ore.) International Raceway event.

McGriff, who began racing in 1945, made his mark on the NASCAR circuit in 1954. That year he won four times and produced 17 top-10 finishes in 24 events.

While wheeling around various tracks, McGriff also operated a timber and mill business on the West Coast. In 2002, the ageless father of five children was inducted into the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame and in '06 was enshrined in the Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Now, at 81 going on 18, what will McGriff do next? Stay tuned.

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Heading to North America

An offer from the Netherlands

After the 1608 voyage, Hudson lost his job with his English employer, The Muscovy Company.

But soon, the Dutch East India Company offered to send him exploring again. They made him promise to sail around the north side of Novaya Zemlya, a group of islands north of Russia, and if he could not find a passage, to return to Amsterdam immediately.

The ship offered to Hudson by the Dutch, the Half Moon, was smaller than the English ship he had sailed before. He asked for a better ship, but his request was turned down.

Other plans

Hudson wanted to explore North America. In 1608, another explorer, John Smith, had told Hudson he believed there was a Northwest Passage — a way to sail from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. Hudson was eager to find such a route.

John Smith

Changing course

Hudson and his crew started north in April 1609. But the Dutch sailors on board didn't like to work in cold weather.

When the weather turned bad, Hudson decided to head west, toward North America. He promised his crew warmer weather and easier sailing, and they agreed.

Exploring America

The *Half Moon* reached the coast near modern Virginia in August 1609. On Sept. 2, Hudson spotted a large island. It was Manhattan Island, where part of New York City is today.

Hudson noted a river flowing into the bay and thought it might be the passage he was looking for. The Native Americans in the area called the river *Muhheakunnuk*, which means "great waters constantly in motion." Today, we call it the Hudson River.

But after traveling about 150 miles up the river, Hudson had to turn around. The river became too shallow for the ship.

Hudson wanted to stay through the winter and set out again in the spring. The crew wanted to go back to Europe.

In November, the *Half Moon* sailed into the English port of Dartmouth.

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Changing America

In the early 1600s, Dutch people had just become **independent**, or free, from Spain. They were trading and doing business with people from other countries. By doing so, the Netherlands was becoming a more powerful country.

Dutch people lived in both cities and **rural**, or country, areas.

After Hudson's voyage

When the *Half Moon* returned to England, Hudson was arrested for sailing under the Dutch flag. The British didn't want the Dutch to gain any property in North America.

However, King James finally dropped the charges against Hudson. His ship and its contents were returned to Amsterdam in 1610, and he started planning another voyage on an English ship.

Hudson's final journey across the ocean

Henry Hudson made his final attempt to find another route to Asia in 1610.

An English company provided him with a sturdy ship, the *Discovery*, and let him chart his course as he wanted.

But Hudson's crew was very unhappy, and in June 1611, they planned a **mutiny***.

Hudson, his son, and a few others were cast off the ship in a small boat and left to drift away.

There are many legends about what happened to Henry Hudson and the other castoffs.

***A mutiny is a planned takeover, usually of a ship, by crewmembers who are not in charge.**

This painting, "The Last Voyage of Henry Hudson," was made by British painter John Collier.

One native legend tells of finding a small boat with a young boy who was still alive. This might have been John Hudson, Henry's son.

But experts say we'll probably never know what happened to Hudson and the others.

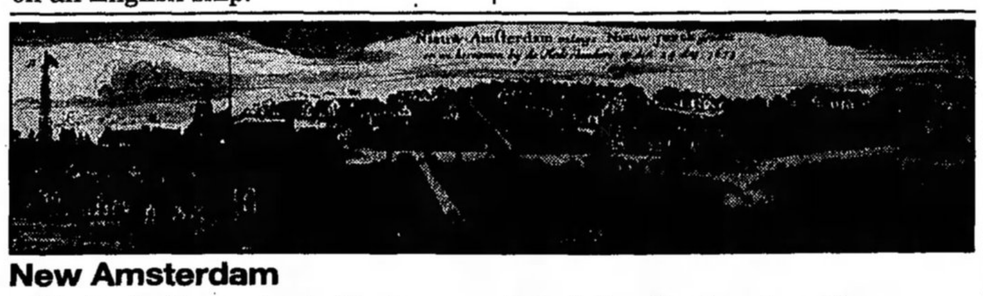
Changes for natives

European explorers brought many changes to the native people of North America, both good and bad.

Mohicans and other tribes were introduced to different animals, including cows, that provided new sources of food and hides.

The Europeans brought guns and gunpowder, giving Native Americans more ways to defend themselves.

Europeans also brought diseases that Native Americans had not seen before and had no natural defenses against.



New Amsterdam

Hudson's discoveries in North America brought opportunities to Dutch businessmen and traders. In 1614, Adriaen Block and his partner, Hendrick Christiaensen, started a trading company called New Netherland. Soon a colony formed, also called New Netherland, that included parts of modern New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware.

The city at the tip of Manhattan Island was known as New Amsterdam. In 1664, when the British took control of the city, it became New York.

The Mini Page thanks Michelle Stefanik, exhibit coordinator for "1609," an exhibit at the New York State Museum, and Peter Theunissen of the Royal Netherlands Embassy for help with this issue.

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MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Bob: What do you call it when bananas share?
Barb: A banana split!

Barry: Why did the banana get a ticket from the police?
Ben: He peeled away from a stoplight!

Buford: How is a banana peel on the floor connected to music?
Barra: You will B flat if you don't C sharp!

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Basset Brown The News Hound's Henry Hudson TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Henry Hudson are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: MOHICAN, COAST, SHIP, HENRY, ENGLISH, HALF, MOON, HUDSON, NETHERLANDS, INDIA, CHINA, RUSSIA, ROUTE, AMERICA, PASSAGE, TRADE, ANIMALS, GUNS, DUTCH, MUTINY, VOYAGE, POLE, ICE, COLD.

M	K	T	S	A	O	C	W	L	E	G	A	Y	O	V
U	O	Q	V	N	H	U	D	S	O	N	R	Z	P	G
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C	O	L	D	S	D	N	A	L	R	E	H	T	E	N

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Ready Resources

The Mini Page provides ideas for Web sites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

www.ny400.org/features

At the library:

"Henry Hudson: Arctic Explorer and North American Adventurer" by Isaac Asimov and Elizabeth Kaplan

"Henry Hudson: Discover the Life of an Explorer" by Trish Kline

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Health care reform already happening

Some communities are offering better treatment at a reduced cost to patients.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — If you pay the mechanic $1,000 to fix your transmission and it breaks again next week, the garage should find and fix the problem for free. So if you get an infection following open-heart surgery because the doctor forgot an antibiotic, why are you charged extra to clear up the wound?

At Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania, pay a flat fee for bypass surgery and you'll get essentially a 90-day warranty on your heart fix. Complications? The hospital has to eat the cost. It gambled that following a checklist of best practices would help patients recover faster and cost less. And so far, it's winning the bet.

It's a radically different approach to a health care system that even many doctors agree rewards volume of care over quality. Yet around the country are hospitals and health systems like Geisinger that President Barack Obama calls "islands of excellence," places quietly trying innovative changes to improve patient care at below-average prices.

Places like:

■ La Crosse, Wis., where astoundingly, nearly 95 percent of senior citizens have living wills to guide end-of-life care, meaning more hospice care and less hospitalization while dying. That has Medicare paying about $18,000 for the last two years of a beneficiary's life here, compared to nearly $64,000 for end-of-life care in Miami, the nation's priciest health market, according to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care.

■ Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where two competing hospitals worked together to create a community clinic that lowered side effects and hospitalizations of patients who use a risky blood thinner.

Next they want to tackle reducing unnecessary CT scans. Some 52,000 CTs were performed in one year for a population of 300,000, 5,000 alone for headaches when just 1 percent find a brain problem. That doesn't mean all the rest weren't necessary, but limiting them is important since CTs emit much more radiation than a regular X-ray, says Dr. James Levett of Physicians Clinic of Iowa, who heads the community's medical collaboration.

■ Everett, Wash., where monthly reports compare how doctors prescribe generic drugs or pricier brand-names, and patients get a checkup call when they leave the hospital to make sure they're following up with their regular doctor.

They're different approaches. But they aim to cut overuse of health care — like avoidable hospitalizations, or repeating tests because one doctor didn't send another a copy, or unnecessary visits to specialists.

"Does the public buy the idea that more care is not better? The answer is no. Yet you're doing it," Dr. Donald Berwick of the nonprofit Institute for Healthcare Improvement told a recent meeting of La Crosse and nine other communities that spend about $1,500 less per Medicare patient than the national average but rank well for quality.

It's sobering: The respected Dartmouth Atlas shows that in parts of the country, Medicare pays double or triple the price to treat the similarly ill — yet people in more expensive areas don't get better quality care. By some measures, they fare worse. The differences can't be explained by big cities' higher living costs. Volume of care is the chief driver, says Dr. Elliott Fisher of the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy. He says 30 percent to 40 percent of hospitalizations alone are avoidable.

Some health systems limit overuse by putting doctors on salary instead of the usual fee-for-service. Fisher says physician teams help, too. Instead of waiting a week for a specialist to run a heart test, the family doctor asks a collaborating cardiologist which test to order and consults with the result.

Then there's Geisinger's approach, called ProvenCare. Surgeons at the Danville, Pa., hospital turned national guidelines for heart bypass into a specific checklist of 40 best practices — like ensuring that antibiotics, blood thinners and other medications are given correctly before and after surgery, and that proper pre-surgery tests are in. Miss a step and the operation's canceled.

> "Does the public buy the idea that more care is not better? The answer is no. Yet you're doing it."
>
> Dr. Donald Berwick

At the program's start, 60 percent of patients got every check. Today, all do.

Then came the price test: Patients insured through Geisinger's insurance unit are charged a set price for the surgery and all pre- and post-operative care, that 90-day warranty.

"We were pretty nervous that this could be upsetting an apple cart," says associate chief medical officer Dr. Alfred Casale.

But ProvenCare patients are recovering faster, rehospitalizations for complications have fallen 40 percent — and the hospital and its health plan have saved thousands of dollars, he says. So Geisinger expanded ProvenCare to half a dozen other areas, from joint replacement to obesity surgery, and is negotiating with other insurers to join.

Nuclear test fallout leads to health crisis

Pacific island natives seeking help from U.S. government.

By MARK NIESSE
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Pius Henry fears his adopted government will kill him, that the United States won't live up to a health care obligation to people from Pacific islands where it tested nuclear bombs.

Henry, a diabetic from the Marshall Islands, has received free dialysis treatments three times a week for years, but the cash-strapped state of Hawaii has threatened to cut off him and others to save money.

Like thousands of legal migrants to Hawaii from independent Pacific nations, Henry believes the United States has a responsibility to provide health care to compensate for the radioactive fallout of 67 nuclear weapons tests from 1946 to 1958.

"I don't have any option. I'm asking the government to help us," Henry said. "They say we're like U.S. citizens, but then they don't treat us the same. It's really unfair."

A federal judge's ruling Sept. 1 temporarily prevented Hawaii from halting critical dialysis and chemotherapy treatments to hundreds of migrants from three nations: Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau. His order lasts at least until October.

Associated Press

Innocenta Sound-Kikku, left, of Kalihi, originally from the Chuuk Islands in Micronesia, gets a reassuring hug from William Swain, of Waipahu and organizer of Pa Emman Kabjere, which means "don't let go of a good hand," at the Hawaii state capital in Honolulu last week.

Those three countries are beneficiaries of the Compact of Free Association, a 1986 pact with the United States granting it the right to use defense sites in exchange for financial assistance and migration rights.

With doctors and medical facilities lacking in their own countries, many with life-threatening conditions have moved to Hawaii seeking better health care, education and quality of life.

The islanders have struggled adjusting to American culture and their new home. They fill public housing projects and a disproportionate share of homeless shelters, according to a 2007 study. Without college degrees or a command of the English language, many work in fast-food or hotel jobs, which still pay far better than they could earn in their home countries.

"We're the last immigrants," said Innocenta Sound-Kikku, a Micronesian whose father, Manuel Sound, suffers from diabetes. "We come here for the same thing everyone else came here for — the chance for the American dream. The U.S. has an obligation after what they've done to us."

The nuclear testing occurred in the Marshall Islands, carrying the explosive power of 7,200 Hiroshima bombs, said Dr. Neal Palafox, chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Hawaii. The blasts contaminated thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean.

The residual radioactivity led to high rates of leukemia and thyroid, lung, stomach, skin and brain cancers, Palafox said. Fallout exposure could result in about a 9 percent increase in cancer in the Marshall Islands, according to a 2004 National Cancer Institute estimate provided to a U.S. Senate committee.

"It's a monster increase in cancer rates no matter how you look at it," Palafox said.

He said that while the high rate of diabetes isn't directly connected to the nuclear tests, fast foods and processed meats introduced by the U.S. led to worsening diets in a culture that was dependent on fishing.

The migrants also widely believe the United States owes them for their various illnesses because of the destruction to their homelands and the displacement and agony they have suffered.

While living with diabetes and high blood pressure, Manuel Sound takes about 11 pills daily and said he feels wary of death. If he missed any of his 3?-hour, thrice-weekly dialysis treatments, his health would be in danger.

"One day you miss, and the poison begins to circulate in your bloodstream. I could die if I'm not careful," said Sound, who has lived in Hawaii for seven years after migrating from Micronesia. "With these budget cuts, I really thought I was going to go."

The state of Hawaii sought to save $15 million by cutting health services to more than 7,000 migrants, who are treated as legal residents lacking citizenship. Their ambiguous status, as well as their cost to taxpayers, led to the state's proposed health reductions.

Both the Hawaii government and the migrants argue that the U.S. government should take responsibility for their health treatments.

But federal Medicaid funding to the migrant islanders was slashed when welfare reform passed in 1996, resulting in Hawaii picking up the tab. U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie, a Democrat representing Hawaii, said he is trying to reinstate Medicaid benefits for compact migrants as part of the pending health care legislation.

"The United States cannot wash its hands clear of this responsibility because the islands will still have that nuclear testing effect for the next 2,000 years," said William Swain of the Marshallese community organization Pa Emman Kabjere, which means "don't let go of a good hand."

In Swain's family, 15 siblings on his father's side died from cancer, with the men suffering from thyroid cancer and the women from urine and breast cancer, he said. His 12-year-old niece has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and his older brother died from thyroid cancer two months ago.

While the government lacks data showing how quickly people are moving from these island nations, there were about 12,215 migrants of the Compact of Free Association states living in Hawaii in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Many of the migrants said it's racially discriminatory for the U.S. government to grant lifesaving health coverage to poor Americans while denying it to them.

"It's wrong for people to be so prejudiced," said Tita Raed of Micronesians United. "Most of the people in Hawaii moved here. This is not their native island, but they're upset when other people move here."

MVH sets weekly schedule

Monongahela Valley Hospital will offer the following programs next week:

■ Sept. 17 — Innovations in Chronic Kidney Disease, 6 p.m., Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center. Board certified Nephrologist Shirley Dopson, D.O. and a team of health care professionals will present a free program designed to recognize the risk factors for chronic kidney disease and discuss the newest methods of treatment. This program is part of MVH's Innovations series featuring physician guest speakers providing medical information to the community. Refreshments will be served. Call (724) 258-1234 for registration or more information.

■ Sept. 17 — Ostomy Support Group, 6 p.m., education conference center. This support group is free and open to all persons with ostomies and their families and friends. For more information, call (724) 258-1773.

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U.S., Vietnam open Agent Orange meetings

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam urged the U.S. to speed funding for Agent Orange victims this morning at the start of the fourth annual meeting on joint efforts to clean up areas that American forces contaminated with the toxic herbicide during the Vietnam War.

U.S. troops sprayed Agent Orange on jungles to deprive Vietnamese troops of ground cover. Vietnam says 1 million to 4 million of its citizens may have suffered serious health consequences.

So far, cleanup efforts have focused on the airport at Danang, a former U.S. air base in central Vietnam where American troops stored, mixed and loaded Agent Orange onto planes.

Agent Orange is perhaps the war's most contentious legacy. After years of disagreement, the two sides began working together in 2006 to address problems linked to the herbicide. A joint study in Danang found dioxin levels were 300 to 400 times higher than internationally accepted limits.

The two sides have already taken temporary steps to contain dioxin, the highly toxic element of Agent Orange, at the Danang site. They are now seeking ways to remove the dioxin from the soil.

The two sides are also working on joint efforts to help disabled Vietnamese whose health problems might be linked to Agent Orange.

It isn't clear how much the cleanup and health projects will cost.

The Vietnamese government estimates that cleaning Danang and the two other most contaminated Agent Orange hot spots will cost $58 million. So far, the U.S. government has set aside $8 million to deal with environmental and health issues linked to Agent Orange.

Nonprofit groups and international donors have contributed funds as well, and more will be needed.

Studies by a Canadian environmental consultant have identified seven Agent Orange hot spots, but Vietnam says as many as two dozen need to be cleaned up.

As this week's meetings opened, the Vietnamese side urged the U.S. to speed up disbursement of money to help the disabled.

"We all know that exposure to dioxin is the cause of serious suffering to the victims," said Nguyen Xuan Cuong, Vietnam's vice minister of natural resources and the environment.

The U.S. Veterans Administration provides benefits to U.S. veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and later developed various cancers. But the United States argues that more scientific study is needed to understand the link between Agent Orange and various physical disabilities suffered by Vietnamese who live in areas where it was used.

The Vietnamese say many babies of soldiers exposed to Agent Orange have been born with terrible birth defects.

The two sides have agreed to work together to help Vietnamese who have disabilities, regardless of the cause.

In opening remarks, U.S. Ambassador Michael Michalak said the U.S. has begun implementing three health projects serving people with disabilities near the Danang airport.

"We're not just talking. We're working together on concrete projects," he said.

Oudin new star at U.S. Open

Georgia teenager Melody Oudin has reached the quarterfinals of the prestigious tournament. 3B

Valley SPORTS

Miami holds off Seminoles

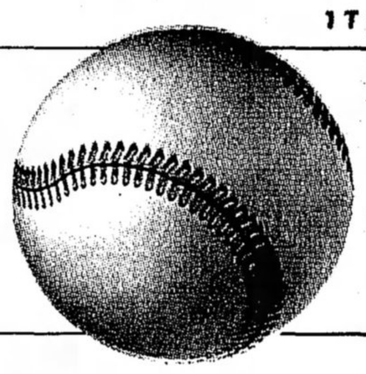
Once again, the Miami-Florida State clash wasn't decided until the final play. 3B

Tournament champs

The high school soccer season kicked off over the weekend with three area teams claiming tournament titles. 3B

Sports Trivia

Who was the last team to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the season opener and what was the year? 3B



Last night's scores

Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 2
Houston 4, Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 0
Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 2
San Francisco 9, San Diego 4

Winning comes first with Steelers

Team's Super Bowl tradition is passed on to younger players.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — Sometime early in a new player's career, he'll be pulled aside and instructed about the way the Pittsburgh Steelers do business.

It won't be the traditional welcome-to-the-NFL talk from coach Mike Tomlin, or a stay-out-of-trouble warning from team president Art Rooney II. Rather, a long-established player such as Hines Ward, James Farrior, Ben Roethlisberger or Aaron Smith will deliver a message that is subtle but easily understood.

The words of wisdom go something like this: In Pittsburgh, the goal is to win the Super Bowl, and not necessarily one or two of them. And there is no other goal. It's the goal this season, and it will be the goal next season. Pro Bowls, All-Pro teams, rookie of the year awards come with winning, but they never trump winning.

Never.

Got a lively personality? Fine. Love to talk? Fine. Prefer to be quiet and introspective? No problem. Any kind of personality is welcome. Just remember: No one player is the Steelers.

Want to have your own reality TV series, want to be the man, can't wait to be the show? Go somewhere else. In Pittsburgh, the six Super Bowl trophies that greet each player daily at the Steelers' practice complex serve as a reminder of what motivates the franchise. If that doesn't do it, go anywhere in a town where it's impossible to walk a single block and not see a Steelers T-shirt, banner, tattoo or Terrible Towel, and a player will quickly realize what matters.

It's why Ben Roethlisberger takes his linemen on mini-vacations during bye weekends. Why the offensive linemen regularly gather at least once a week to bowl, hang out or talk. Why the defensive players refer to much-admired coordinator Dick LeBeau, who turns 72 on Wednesday, as "Coach Dad." Why Troy Polamalu takes the defensive backs with him to the Pro Bowl. Why coaches such as Dan Bylsma of the Stanley Cup-winning Penguins and John Calipari of Kentucky visited training camp this summer to see what makes the Steelers winners.

It's why Ward, on the very first day of offseason workouts in April, said a group of Steelers that largely remained intact while winning two Super Bowls in four seasons shouldn't be satisfied with what it has accomplished.

"I want to win another one," Ward said. "The (Steelers) teams in the '70s, they won four. If we can win another one, then I think we'll be right up there with New England as one of the teams in the dynasty since I've been here."

The Patriots are the only team in the last 10 years to win successive Super Bowls, doing so in the 2003 and 2004 seasons, yet these Steelers appear well positioned to make a run at a repeat title.

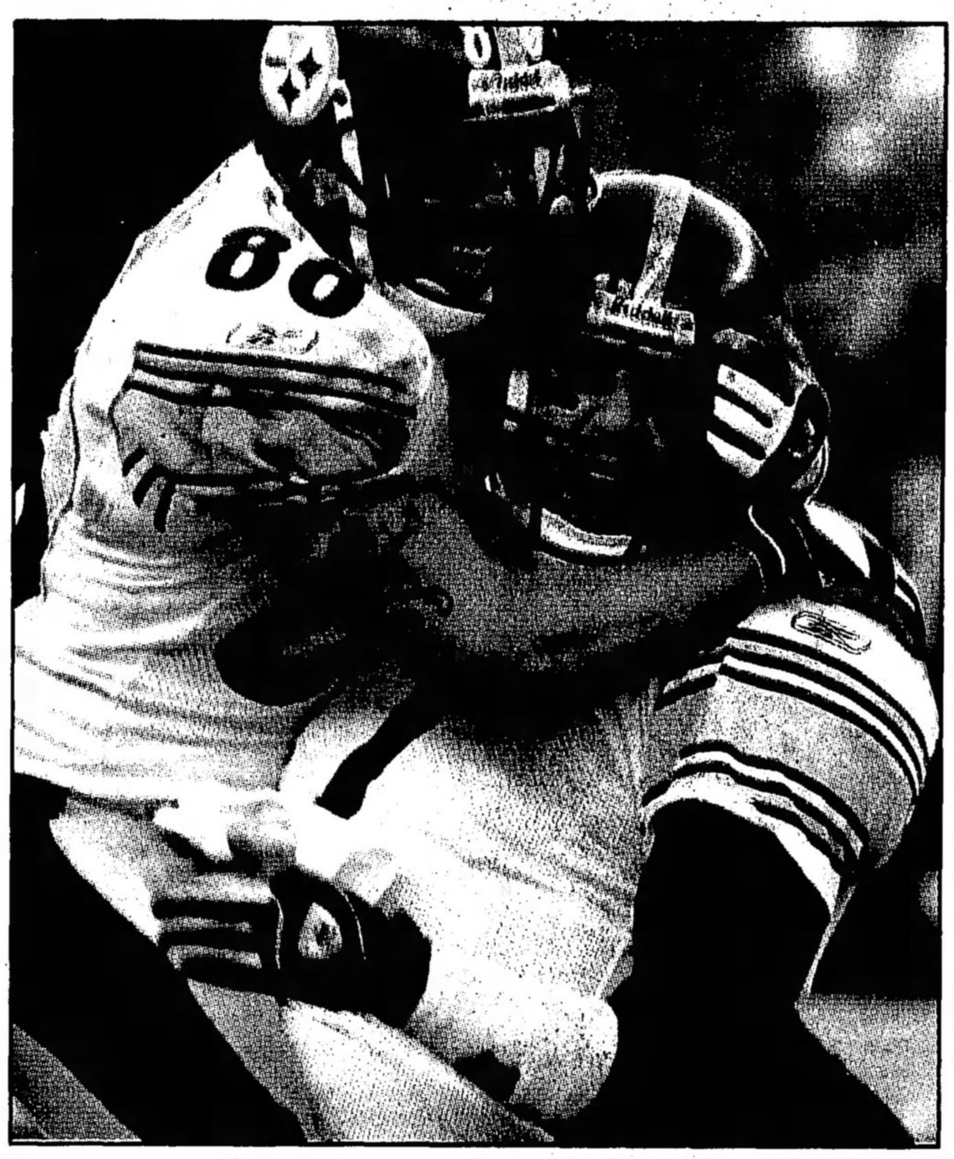
Nineteen of the 22 starters return from the team that drove down the field in the final two minutes to beat Arizona 27-23 in the Super Bowl, a remarkable accomplishment in the salary cap era. It's also a testament to the Steelers' ability to focus on players that fit their system and keep them. Ward, for example, signed a substantial contract before the Steelers won the Super Bowl during the 2005 season, then signed another one during the offseason.

"You know that the people in charge, with every decision they make, are doing what's best for the team," safety Ryan Clark said.

Roethlisberger, who has the look of a franchise quarterback, still can throw to Super Bowl MVPs Santonio Holmes and Ward. Willie Parker, three times a 1,000-yard rusher, will be complemented by a healthy Rashard Mendenhall, the first-round pick a year ago. All the offensive line starters but one return.

Every key player on the defense that was ranked No. 1 statistically the last two seasons is back,

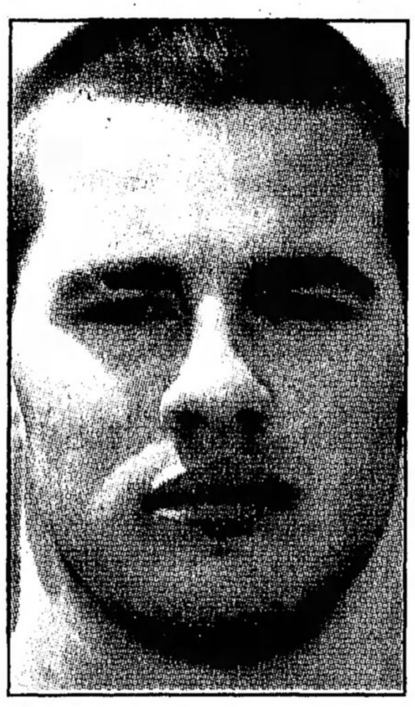
(See STEELERS, Page 2B)



Associated Press

Wide receiver Hines Ward, left, and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger have brought the Steelers' tradition of excellence into a new century.

EF's Sotereanos Player of the Week



Greg Sotereanos

Running back had 186 yards and a touchdown in Friday's win at Yough.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

Elizabeth Forward football coach Garry Cathell is looking for a really big season from Greg Sotereanos.

And Sotereanos didn't waste any time trying to prove the point.

Sotereanos ran for 186 yards and a 31-yard touchdown in the Warriors' opening 14-3 win at Yough.

With that showing, Sotereanos is *The Valley Independent's* Player of the Week.

"He really took the game over in the second half." said Cathell.

The Warriors trailed 3-0 at intermission.

"Greg played a good game and would have had better numbers if he hadn't fumbled three times, which is rare for him," added Cathell.

Sotereanos also starred on defense at inside linebackers for the Warriors, who kept the Cougars out of the end zone.

Honorable mention:

■ Belle Vernon Area's Cory Williams, who ran for 90 yards on 13 carries and one touchdown and returned the second half kickoff 90 yards for another score in the Leps' 45-17 win over Laurel Highlands.

■ BVA's Matt Green, who had 78 yards on nine carries including a 21-yard touchdown and returned an interception 97 yards for another score.

■ Ringgold's Josh Burnisky, who completed 10 of 23 passes for 127 yards and a touchdown and kicked a 42-yard field goal in the Rams' 29-15 loss to Peters Township.

■ Ringgold's Derek Fiore, who had five receptions for 73 yards, including a 46-yard touchdown.

■ Bentworth's Ben Gregg, who completed six of 12 passes for 112 yards and three touchdowns in the Bearcats' 41-33 victory over Mapletown.

■ Bentworth's Jason Wright, who returned the opening kick 72 yards for a touchdown and caught a 14-yard TD pass.

■ California's D.J. Martinak, who hit seven of 14 passes for 122 yards and two touchdowns in the Trojans' 20-16 win over Frazier.

■ California's Wade Stinnett, who caught two touchdown passes and returned an interception 15 yards for another touchdown.

■ Frazier's Chase Kirmeyer, who ran for 86 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

■ Yough's Mike Madden, who passed and ran for 151 total offense yards against Elizabeth Forward.

The biggest losers

Pirates wrap up infamous spot in the record book with Monday's 4-2 defeat.

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Pirates' not-so-magic number is zero, or the number of winning teams they've had during a record-setting run of futility over 17 forgettable seasons.

The Chicago Cubs assured the Pirates of an unwanted place in baseball's record book, getting two homers from Derrek Lee and an effective start from Ted Lilly while beating the last-place Pirates 4-2 on Monday.

By losing their 10th in 11 games, the Pirates are guaranteed of finishing below .500, just as they have every season since 1993. The 17 consecutive losing seasons represent the longest streak for any team in the four major North American pro team sports, and only the Phillies (1933-48) have also had as many as 16 in a row.

The Vancouver Canucks (NHL, 1976-91) and Kansas City/Sacramento Kings (NBA, 1983-98) had 15 consecutive losing seasons each and the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers had a 14-year streak (1983-96).

"We can't ignore it and say it didn't happen," said manager John Russell, whose team was dismantled by the trading of five everyday players since opening day. "We're not accepting it. We're making moves to make sure we build a championship team, and we want that to happen as soon as possible."

The present-day Pirates (54-82) are a mix of prospects and lower-paid players, and most were oblivious to the significance of the loss. Rookie starting pitcher Daniel McCutchen (0-1) didn't realize his first career loss would be the Pirates' 1,501st since the streak began, the season after former Pirates star Barry Bonds left to sign with the Giants.

In the opposing dugout, the Cubs' Lou Piniella remembered managing in Cincinnati against Bonds-led Pirates teams that averaged 96 wins from 1990-92.

"There isn't any team that wants to lose," said Piniella, whose own team hasn't won the World Series since 1908. "Some are a little more fortunate, some have more money to spend, some of them draft better players. But I'm sure this organization in the near future will start winning with more regularity. It would be great for the National League and the fans here, they've had a lot of history here and success in the past to draw on."

No recent success, for sure. The Pirates have been in a rebuilding mode under three owners, four general managers and six managers since the streak began, but no team finished better than four games under .500.

Fittingly, the song "Money for Nothing" was played during one inning break, which befits a team that has spent about a half billion dollars on salaries since 1993 yet has fielded only one team that went into September with an opportunity to win a division title.

Given that the Pirates' top talent is mostly in the minor leagues, it's conceivable the streak won't end in the next year or two.

"Setting a major league mark for losing hurts and it hits particularly hard for us because everyone in this organization is extraordinarily proud to be a part of a franchise that has such a long and rich history of winning," team president Frank Coonelly said.

A franchise that won five World Series from 1909-79 and sent 13 players to the Hall of Fame did not publicly mention the dubious record, and there were few eyewitnesses — 14,673 — on a drizzly Labor Day. The loss was the Pirates' 24th in their last 30 games against the Cubs, one of the majors' most disappointing teams this season.

Except against the Pirates, who are 2-7 against the Cubs.

Lee hit his 30th homer into the center field shrubbery with two out in the first, then hit his 31st into the front row of the left-field bleachers two innings later after Ryan Theriot's two-out single. It was Lee's second multiple-homer game in three days and the 22nd of his career.

"It's been a good few days," Lee said. "I definitely have been feeling good at the plate. It seems when I get a pitch, it's been going out of the ballpark."

McCutchen (0-1) has allowed three homers since being promoted to the majors on Aug. 31, each on a first pitch.

(See PIRATES, Page 2B)

Associated Press

Pirates fans Ben Samson, left, and Ilya Udler express their displeasure at Monday's game.

SPORTS

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	77	58	.570	—
Florida	72	65	.526	6
Atlanta	70	67	.511	8
New York	62	75	.453	16
Washington	47	90	.343	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	82	57	.590	—
Chicago	69	67	.507	11 1/2
Houston	67	70	.489	14
Milwaukee	66	71	.482	15
Cincinnati	63	74	.460	18
Pittsburgh	54	82	.397	26 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	82	57	.590	—
Colorado	78	60	.565	3 1/2
San Francisco	76	62	.551	5 1/2
Arizona	61	78	.439	21
San Diego	61	78	.439	21

Monday's Games

Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 2
Houston 4, Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 0
Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3
L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 2
San Francisco 9, San Diego 4

Today's Games

Chicago Cubs (Dempster 8-8) at Pittsburgh (Duke 10-13), 7:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (P.Martinez 3-0) at Washington (Lannan 8-10), 7:05 p.m.
Florida (VandenHurk 2-2) at N.Y. Mets (Redding 2-4), 7:10 p.m.
Atlanta (J.Vazquez 11-9) at Houston (F.Paulino 2-7), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Smoltz 1-1) at Milwaukee (M.Parra 10-10), 8:05 p.m.
Cincinnati (Maloney 0-3) at Colorado (Marquis 14-10), 8:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 12-9) at Arizona (Buckner 2-6), 9:40 p.m.
San Diego (Correia 10-10) at San Francisco (Lincecum 13-5), 10:15 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	89	50	.640	—
Boston	79	58	.577	9
Tampa Bay	72	66	.522	16 1/2
Toronto	61	76	.445	27
Baltimore	56	81	.409	32

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	75	61	.551	—
Minnesota	69	68	.504	6 1/2
Chicago	69	70	.496	7 1/2
Cleveland	60	76	.441	15
Kansas City	52	85	.380	23 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	81	55	.596	—
Texas	76	60	.559	5
Seattle	72	66	.522	10
Oakland	61	76	.445	20 1/2

Monday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 1, 1st game
Minnesota 6, Toronto 3
Chicago White Sox 5, Boston 1
Kansas City 6, L.A. Angels 3
Texas at Cleveland, ppd., rain
N.Y. Yankees 11, Tampa Bay 1, 2nd game

Today's Games

Texas (Tom.Hunter 7-3) at Cleveland (C.Carrasco 0-1), 5:05 p.m., 1st game
Tampa Bay (Price 7-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Gaudin 1-0), 7:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Duensing 2-1) at Toronto (R.Romero 11-7), 7:07 p.m.
Baltimore (Da.Hernandez 4-6) at Boston (Buchholz 4-3), 7:10 p.m.
Detroit (Porcello 12-8) at Kansas City (Chen 1-6), 8:10 p.m.
Oakland (Tomko 3-3) at Chicago White Sox (C.Torres 1-0), 8:11 p.m.
Texas (McCarthy 6-2) at Cleveland (Laffey 7-4), 8:35 p.m., 2nd game
Seattle (F.Hernandez 14-5) at L.A. Angels (Kazmir 8-8), 10:05 p.m.

Pirates boxscore

CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi	PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi
Fukdm cf	4	0	0	0	AMcCt cf	3	0	0	0
Theriot ss	4	1	1	0	Cedeno ss	4	0	0	0
D.Lee 1b	3	2	2	3	GJones 1b	4	0	0	0
ArRmr 3b	4	0	1	0	Milledg lf	4	0	0	0
Bradly rf	4	0	1	1	Doumit c	3	0	0	0
JeBakr 2b	4	0	1	0	DlwYn 2b	2	1	0	0
Scales lf	4	0	1	0	Moss rf	3	0	1	1
Fuld lf	0	0	0	0	AnLRc 3b	2	1	1	1
K.Hill c	4	0	1	0	DMcCt p	2	0	0	0
Lilly p	3	1	1	0	DBatst p	0	0	0	0
Grabow p	0	0	0	0	RVazqz ph	1	0	0	0
AGzmn p	0	0	0	0	SJcksn p	0	0	0	0
MHffpr ph	1	0	0	0					
Marml p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**35**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**Totals**	**28**	**2**	**2**	**2**

Chicago	102	010	000	—	4
Pittsburgh	001	010	000	—	2

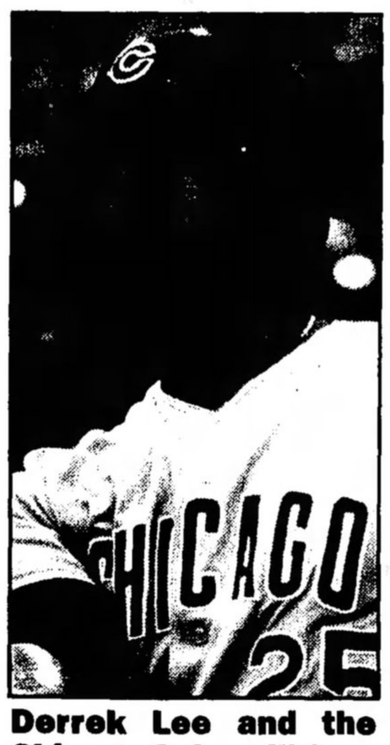
DP—Chicago 1. LOB—Chicago 7, Pittsburgh 2. 2B—Ar.Ramirez (13), Moss (19). HR—D.Lee 2 (31), An.LaRoche (8). S—Theriot.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago						
Lilly W,11-8	6	2	2	2	3	7
Grabow H,22	1	0	0	0	0	1
A.Guzman H,15	1	0	0	0	0	0
Marmol S,10-14	1	0	0	0	0	2
Pittsburgh						
D.McCutchen L,0-1	7	9	4	4	2	5
D.Bautista	1	0	0	0	0	2
S.Jackson	1	0	0	0	0	0

Umpires—Home, Greg Gibson; First, Tim McClelland; Second, Rob Drake; Third, Andy Fletcher.
T—2:22. A—14,673 (38,362).

Soccer card

Scholastic
Today
Boys
Class AAA
Section 3
Thomas Jefferson at Belle Vernon Area
Southmoreland at Elizabeth Forward
Steel Valley at Yough
Uniontown at South Park
Class A
Section 1
California at Brownsville
South Allegheny at Geibel
Trinity Christian at Greensburg Central
Winchester Thurston at Serra
Section 4
Monessen at Brentwood
Carlynton at Bentworth
Beth-Center at Chartiers-Houston
Girls
Exhibition
Ringgold at Thomas Jefferson



Derrek Lee and the Chicago Cubs will face the Pirates at 7:05 p.m. on Fox Sports.

Sports dial

Today
Television
7 p.m. - ESPN2 - U.S. Open, tennis.
7:05 p.m. - Fox Sports - Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, baseball.
Radio
7:05 p.m. - WPGB (104.7 FM) - Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, baseball.

High school football standings

Class AAA
Big Seven Conference

	League W	League L	Overall W	Overall L
Belle Vernon Area	0	0	1	0
Elizabeth Forward	0	0	1	0
Thomas Jefferson	0	0	1	0
West Mifflin	0	0	1	0
Chartiers Valley	0	0	1	0
Ringgold	0	0	0	1
Trinity	0	0	0	1

Friday
Ringgold at Albert Gallatin
Belle Vernon Area at Southmoreland
Uniontown at Thomas Jefferson
Laurel Highlands at Elizabeth Forward
Chartier Valley at Yough
Trinity at Greensburg Salem
Derry at West Mifflin

Keystone Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Albert Gallatin	0	0	1	0
Uniontown	0	0	1	0
Greensburg Salem	0	0	0	1
Yough	0	0	0	1
Derry	0	0	0	1
Laurel Highlands	0	0	0	1
Southmoreland	0	0	0	1

Friday
Chartiers Valley at Yough
Ringgold at Albert Gallatin
Belle Vernon Area at Southmoeland
Laurel Highlands at Elizabeth Forward
Derry at West Mifflin
Uniontown at Thomas Jefferson
Trinity at Greensburg Salem

Class AA
Interstate Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Brownsville	1	0	1	0
Greensburg Central	1	0	1	0
Jeannette	1	0	1	0
Mt. Pleasant	1	0	1	0
Washington	1	0	1	0
Charleroi	0	1	0	1
East Allegheny	0	1	0	1
McGuffey	0	1	0	1
South Allegheny	0	1	0	1
Waynesburg	0	1	0	1

Friday
East Allegheny at Charleroi
Brownsville at Jeannette
Mt. Pleasant at Washington
Waynesbur at South Allegheny
Greensburg Central at McGuffey

Class A
Tri-County South

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
California	0	0	1	0
Jefferson-Morgan	0	0	1	0
Monessen	0	0	0	1
Carmichaels	0	0	0	1
West Greene	0	0	0	1
Mapletown	0	0	0	1
Geibel	0	0	0	1

Friday
Monessen at Clairton
Geibel at Bentworth
California at Serra
Chartiers-Houston at Carmichaels
Avella at Jefferson-Morgan
West Greene at Fort Cherry
Burgettstown at Beth-Center
Frazier at Mapletown

Black Hills Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Bentworth	0	0	1	0
Fort Cherry	0	0	1	0
Chartiers-Houston	0	0	1	0
Serra	0	0	1	0
Avella	0	0	1	0
Frazier	0	0	0	1
Clairton	0	0	0	1
Burgettstown	0	0	0	1

Friday
Monessen at Clairton
Frazier at Mapletown
Burgettstown at Beth-Center
California at Serra
Geibel at Bentworth
Chartiers-Houston at Carmichaels
Geibel at Bentworth

NFL schedule

Thursday's Games
Tennessee at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Miami at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Houston, 1 p.m.
Detroit at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Denver at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 4:15 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's Games
Buffalo at New England, 7 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 10:15 p.m.

High school football rankings

Pennsylvania high school preseason football rankings from the Patriot-News of Harrisburg, with school's district in parentheses, followed by last season's final record and position in last season's final rankings. NR means not ranked.

CLASS AAAA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Pittsburgh CC	(7)	1-0	1
2. La Salle College	(12)	1-0	2
3. Bishop McDevitt	(3)	1-0	4
4. State College	(6)	1-0	5
5. North Penn	(1)	1-0	9
6. Gateway	(7)	1-0	NR
7. St. Joseph's Prep	(12)	1-0	NR
8. McKeesport	(7)	0-1	3
9. Downingtown West	(1)	1-0	8
10. Neshaminy	(1)	1-0	10

Honorable mention
Cumberland Valley (3) 1-0, George Washington (12) 0-1, Liberty (11) 0-1, McDowell (10) 1-0, Parkland (11) 1-0, Penn Hills (7) 0-1, Pennsbury (1) 1-0, Woodland Hills (7) 0-1.

CLASS AAA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Thomas Jefferson	(7)	1-0	1
2. Selinsgrove	(4)	1-0	2
3. Wilson Area	(11)	1-0	3
4. Cathedral Prep	(10)	0-1	4
5. Manheim Central	(3)	1-0	5
6. Abington Heights	(2)	1-0	6
7. Hopewell	(7)	1-0	7
8. Pottsgrove	(1)	1-0	9
9. Bayard Rustin	(1)	1-0	10
10. Berwick	(2)	1-0	NR

Honorable mention
Bok (12) 1-0, Chartiers Valley (7) 1-0, Strath haven (1) 1-0, Strong Vincent (10) 0-1, Susquehanna Twp. (3) 1-0, Upper Moreland (1) 0-1, West York (3) 1-0.

CLASS AA

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Greensburg Central	(7)	10-1	1
2. Lancaster Catholic	(3)	13-2	2
3. Wilmington	(10)	15-1	3
4. Beaver Falls	(7)	12-1	4
5. Dunmore	(2)	11-2	5
6. Keystone Oaks	(7)	8-2	6
7. Martinsburg Central	(6)	12-2	7
8. Montoursville	(4)	10-3	8
9. Aliquippa	(7)	12-3	9
10. General McLane	(10)	5-5	NR

Honorable mention
Brockway (9) 1-0, Jeannette (7) 1-0, Northern Lehigh (11) 1-0, Palisades (11) 1-0, Sto-Rox (7) 1-0, West Catholic (12) 1-0.

CLASS A

	Sec.	W-L	Last Wk.
1. Rochester	(7)	10-2	2
2. Farrell	(10)	12-3	3
3. Bishop McCort	(6)	12-1	4
4. Southern Columbia	(4)	10-3	7
5. Serra Catholic	(7)	6-4	8
6. Laurel	(7)	7-4	NR
7. Clairton	(7)	15-1	1
8. Steelton-Highspire	(3)	16-0	6
9. North Catholic	(7)	8-3	5
10. Portage	(6)	12-1	10

Honorable mention
Bellwood-Antis (6) 1-0, Bloomsburg (4) 1-0, Cameron County (9) 1-0, Monessen (7) 0-1, Old Forge (2) 1-0, Schuylkill Haven (11) 1-0, Springdale (7) 1-0.

Youth football

Fayette City 32, Belle Vernon 0

Fayette City	7	7	6	12 -	32
Belle Vernon	0	0	0	0 -	0

Fayette City - Matt Brown (12, run) Derek Verkleeren (PAT)
Fayette City - Matt Brown (5, run) Derek Verkleeren (PAT)
Fayette City - Josh Miller (41, pass fromJosh Hall)
Fayette City - Matt Brown (6, run)
Fayette City - Nick Hall (20,run).

Lagrange Eagles 35, Yough Silver 0

Lagrange	14	21	0	0 -	35
Yough Silver	0	0	0	6 -	6

Lagrange - Dalton Naylor (68,run) Zac Spate (PAT)
Lagrange - Deven Feeney (35, run) Philip Taylor (PAT)
Lagrange - Zac Spate (16, run) Dalton Naylor (PAT)
Lagrange - Jacob Homanics (3, run) PhilipTaylor (PAT)
Lagrange - Philip Taylor (24, run) John Pokol (PAT)
Yough - Eric Baer (18, run)

Washington Twp. 0, Yough Green 0

Wash. Two.	0	0	0	0 -	0
Yough Green	0	0	0	0 -	0

Standings
East Division

	W	L	T
Lagrange	2	0	0
Wash Twp.	0	1	1
YoughSilver	0	2	0

West Division

	W	L	T
Yough Green	1	0	1
Fayette City	1	1	0
Belle Vernon	1	1	0

Schedule
Saturday
At Brewer Stadium
11 a.m. - Yough Green vs Belle Vernon
1 p.m. - Fayette City vs Lagrange
3 p.m. - Yough Silver vs Washington Township

MLS standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	10	4	9	39	34	25
Chicago	10	6	8	38	33	28
New England	9	6	6	33	26	26
D.C. United	7	5	11	32	35	34
Toronto FC	8	8	7	31	30	33
Kansas City	5	10	6	21	20	29
New York	4	16	4	16	20	41

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Houston	11	7	7	40	31	22
Los Angeles	9	4	11	38	28	23
Seattle FC	8	6	10	34	29	23
Colorado	9	7	6	33	35	27
Real SaltLake	9	9	6	33	35	27
Chivas USA	10	9	3	33	23	24
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23	31	35
San Jose	5	12	5	20	27	40

Wednesday, Sept. 9
Kansas City at D.C. United, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12
Colorado at Toronto FC, 3:30 p.m.
Seattle FC at D.C. United, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
FC Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 13
New England at Chivas USA, 3 p.m.
Houston at Columbus, 5 p.m.

Latest Line

BEST BET: Arizona is 17-35 its last 52 games vs. a team with a winning record and 0-5 in Billy Buckner's last 5 starts. Los Angeles is 18-6 its last 24 games played on Tuesday and 12-3 in Chad Billingsley's last 15 starts vs. a National League West opponent. The Dodgers are also a solid 14-6 the last 20 games in this series. Take Los Angeles over Arizona for another Best Bet winner.

NFL

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
Thursday, Sept 10		
Week One		
PITTSBURGH	6 (35)	Tennessee
Sunday, Sept 13		
ATLANTA	4 (43)	Miami
BALTIMORE	13 (36)	Kansas City
Philadelphia	1 (44)	CAROLINA
CINCINNATI	4 1/2 (43)	Denver
Minnesota	4 (40)	CLEVELAND
HOUSTON	4 1/2 (43)	NY Jets
INDIANAPOLIS	7 1/2 (44)	Jacksonville
N. ORLEANS	13 1/2(49)	Detroit
Dallas	6 (39)	TAMPA BAY
ARIZONA	6 1/2 (46)	San Fran
NY GIANTS	6 1/2 (37)	Washington
SEATTLE	8 1/2 (42)	St. Louis
GREEN BAY	3 1/2 (46)	Chicago
Monday, Sept 14		
N. ENGLAND	11 (47)	Buffalo
San Diego	9 1/2 (43)	OAKLAND

College Football

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
Thursday, Sept 10		
GA TECH	4 1/2	Clemson
Friday, Sept 11		
Colorado	4	TOLEDO
Saturday, Sept 12		
N, Carolina	4 1/2	CONNECTICUT
W. VIRGINIA	6	East Carolina
PENN STATE	28	Syracuse
VA TECH	19 1/2	Marshall
MICHIGAN ST	14 1/2	C. Michigan
N'WESTERN	18	E. Michigan
Iowa	6 1/2	IOWA ST
AUBURN	14 1/2	Mississippi St
ARMY	2	Duke
WISCONSIN	8	Fresno St
WAKE FOREST	2	Stanford
GEORGIA	7	South Carolina
TENNESSEE	7 1/2	Ucla
Byu	18	TULANE
OREGON	11 1/2	Purdue
Texas	33	WYOMING
NAVY	7	Louisiana Tech
Notre Dame	4	MICHIGAN
WASHINGTON	20 1/2	Idaho
ALA-BIRM.	11	Smu
Pittsburgh	11	BUFFALO
Tcu	10 1/2	VIRGINIA
BOSTON COLL.	21 1/2	Kent St
TEXAS TECH	26 1/2	Rice
MINNESOTA	4 1/2	Air Force
a-Hawaii	2	WASHINGTON ST
INDIANA	1	W. Michigan
MISSOURI	17	Bowling Green
Kansas	11	TEXAS EL PASO
SO. MISS	15	Central Florida
OKLA ST	15 1/2	Houston
BOISE ST	36	Miami-Ohio
LSU	14 1/2	Vanderbilt
Tulsa	17 1/2	NEW MEXICO
Southern Cal	7	OHIO ST
Utah	13 1/2	San Jose St
Oregon St	7	UNLV
NEBRASKA	23 1/2	Arkansas St
ALABAMA	34	Fla International
South Florida	24	W. KENTUCKY
FLORIDA	36	Troy
Ohio	3	NORTH TEXAS
MID TENN ST	1	Memphis
Kansas St	7 1/2	UL-LAFAYETTE

a-at Seattle, WA.

Baseball

Favorite	Odds	Underdog
National League		
Philadelphia	6-7	WASHINGTON
Chicago Cubs	Even-6	PITTSBURGH
Florida	Even-6	NY METS
Atlanta	6-7	HOUSTON
St. Louis	5 1/2-6 1/2	MILW.
COLORADO	12-13	Cincinnati
LA Dodgers	9-10	ARIZONA
SAN FRAN	12-13	San Diego
American League		
CLEVELAND	Even-6	Texas
NY YANKEES	6-7	Tampa Bay
TORONTO	Even-6	Minnesota
BOSTON	10-11	Baltimore
Detroit	7 1/2-8 1/2	KAN. CITY
CHICAGO	6-7	Oakland
LA ANGELS	5 1/2-6 1/2	Seattle

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

WNBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	21	10	.677	—
Atlanta	17	15	.531	4 1/2
Detroit	16	15	.516	5
Chicago	15	17	.469	6 1/2
Connecticut	15	17	.469	6 1/2
Washington	15	17	.469	6 1/2
New York	12	19	.387	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	22	10	.688	—
Seattle	19	13	.594	3
Los Angeles	15	16	.484	6 1/2
San Antonio	14	17	.452	7 1/2
Minnesota	13	18	.419	8 1/2
Sacramento	11	21	.344	11

Monday's Games
No games scheduled
Today's Games
Indiana at New York, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Frontier League final standings

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kalamazoo	58	38	.604	—
Lake Erie	57	38	.600	1/2
Florence	49	47	.510	9
Washington	43	53	.448	15
Traverse City	42	53	.442	15 1/2
Midwest	42	54	.438	16

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
River City	56	38	.596	—
Windy City	56	40	.583	1
Southern Illinois	56	40	.583	1
Rockford	44	50	.468	12
Gateway	40	54	.426	16
Evansville	28	66	.298	28

Playoffs
Both series are best of five
Today
Lake Erie at Kalamazoo, 7:05 p.m.
Windy City at River City, 8:05 p.m.

Sports moves

BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Recalled C Lou Marson from Columbus (IL).
NEW YORK YANKEES—Activated OF Brett Gardner from the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Shelley Duncan from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Placed 1B Carlos Pena on the 60-day DL. Purchased contract of 1B Chris Richard from Durham (IL).
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Activated LHP Scott Schoeneweis from the 15-day DL.
CHICAGO CUBS—Recalled RHP Jeff Stevens from Iowa (PCL).
CINCINNATI REDS—Recalled RHP Carlos Fisher from Sarasota (FSL).
HOUSTON ASTROS—Purchased the contracts of INF Chris Johnson and RHP Billy Sadler from Round Rock (PCL). Recalled INF Tommy Manzella from Round Rock.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Recalled RHP Sean Gallagher from Portland (PCL).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Activated 2B Freddy Sanchez from the 15-day DL.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed G Trevor Canfield, DT Keilen Dykes, DE Alex Field and WR Edward Gant to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Signed QB Hunter Cantwell, WR Jason Chery, DT George Hypolite, LB Mortty Ivy, LB Kelvin Smith, C Dustin Fry and CB Marcus Walker to the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS—Signed OT James Marten to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed DB Brandon Anderson, LB Titus Brown, RB Chris Jennings, WR Lance Leggett, OL Pat Murray and DL Brian Schaefering to practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS—Claimed S Marvin White off waivers from Cincinnati.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Claimed S Aaron Francisco off waivers from Arizona. Released LB Jordan Senn.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Signed QB Richard Bartel, FB Brock Bolen, S Michael Desormeaux, DE Jeremy Navarre, C Cecil Newton, G Cameron Stephenson, WR Tiquan Underwood and RB Josh Vaughan to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Waived TE David Martin. Claimed TE Davon Drew off waivers from Baltimore. Signed DE Ryan Baker, CB Will Billingsley, LB J.D. Folsom, LB Danny Lansanah, OL Nate Garner, OL Mark Lewis, WR James Robinson and WR Julius Pruitt to the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed LB Stanley Arnoux to a four-year contract and placed him on injured reserve.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed QB Rhett Bomar, CB DeAndre Wright, RB Allen Patrick, S Vince Anderson, S Sha'reff Rashad, DT Anthony Bryant, FB Nehemiah Broughton and TE Kareem Brown to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS—Signed RB Jehuu Caulcrick, DB Emanuel Cook, ILB Kenwin Cummings, S Keith Fitzhugh, WR Marcus Henry, DT Matt Kroul, OT Ryan McKee and TE Jack Simmons to the practice squad.
OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed G Roy Schuening to practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed OT Tony Pashos to a one-year contract. Waived LB Diyral Briggs.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Signed WR Logan Payne, WR Mike Hass, S Jamar Adams, RB Devin Moore and OT Kyle Williams to the practice squad. Claimed LB Thomas Williams off waivers from Jacksonville, CB Roy Lewis off waivers from Pittsburgh and OL Blake Schlueter off waivers from Denver and signed them to the practice squad.

Steelers

(FROM PAGE ONE)

including newly re-signed Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison and Polamalu, whose unrivaled versatility requires offenses to figure out what he's doing on every down.

The Steelers also upgraded their long-deficient kick returning by signing former CFL star Stefan Logan and drafting Mike Wallace, a third-round pick who might already be one of the fastest receivers in team history.

Looking for the wildcat offense, gee-whiz gimmicks and trickery? Look elsewhere. The Steelers again will be about playing exceptional defense, controlling the ball, running the clock, keeping drives going, hanging on to the ball.

The Steelers play that way in September, and they play that way in December. They also hope and, perhaps, expect to play that way in February.

"We're not assuming anything," Tomlin said. "The '08 Steelers are the '08 Steelers. ... What they call us is irrelevant. It's more about what we do, what we're willing to do. No doubt we have a capable group. We're not going to run from that. Capability is less of an issue. It's more about what we're willing to do."

Pirates

(FROM PAGE ONE)

Lilly (11-8) needed 86 pitches over six innings to win for the first time in his last six road starts, with the left-hander and relievers John Grabow, Angel Guzman and Carlos Marmol combining on a two-hitter. Lilly gave up both hits, struck out seven and walked one.

Marmol pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 14 opportunities.

Andy LaRoche hit his eighth homer in the third and Brandon Moss doubled in a run in the fifth, but they couldn't prevent the Pirates from being mathematically eliminated in the NL Central race.

Washington can't wait to face Steelers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Receiver Nate Washington wants to play so much with his new Tennessee teammates against the franchise that gave him his NFL start in Pittsburgh he can't sleep through the night.

The Titans signed Washington away from Pittsburgh to add some much-needed speed to their passing game. But the receiver strained his left hamstring Aug. 24, an injury that kept him out of practice until Monday and may keep him out of the NFL's season opener Thursday night.

"I've been waking up these past couple nights in the middle of the night thinking of rehabbing some in the middle of my sleep," Washington said.

"It's definitely something I've been trying to pry into myself that it's a 16-week season. But in all honesty, this game does mean a lot to me. It means a whole lot, whole lot to me to go out and play against these guys. I know the coaching staff is going to take precautions. ... Hopefully, they give me the go ahead."

All Titans coach Jeff Fisher would say Monday is no one has been ruled out against Pittsburgh. Washington was limited in his first practice since he dropped to the ground on a long pass route, but did run a few routes during team drills, work that Fisher called encouraging.

Both Washington and the Titans have worked aggressively to help the receiver heal his hamstring. Washington credited the trainers with giving him leeway to perform what he called "nice, hard rehab."

The Titans would love to have the 6-foot-1, 185-pound receiver on the field in Pittsburgh. He was their top free agency signing with a six-year, $27 million deal that included $9 million in guaranteed money, and Washington was the first of many moves designed to improve a passing offense ranked 27th in the NFL in 2008.

Washington caught 104 passes for 1,705 yards and 12 touchdowns during four seasons in Pittsburgh after the Steelers brought him in as an undrafted free agent out of Tiffin. He had his best season in 2008 with 40 receptions and 631 yards receiving with three TDs behind Hines Ward and Santonio Holmes.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin called Washington a spark plug for a locker room through both his play and personality.

"They got a great player in Nate. He's starter capable. He's been given opportunities in the past few years to play in that role here, and he's always delivered for us. I'd imagine he's going to do the same thing for those guys," Tomlin said.

If Washington can't start, then rookie Kenny Britt, the No. 30 draft pick overall out of Rutgers, would start the first NFL regular-season game of his career opposite veteran Justin Gage. Washington has been busy sharing any tidbits and scouting information with his new teammates.

SPORTS

Oudin delights U.S. Open fans

Georgia teen upsets Nadia Petrova for a spot in the quarterfinals.

NEW YORK (AP) — At any Grand Slam where Melanie Oudin wasn't becoming a star, any of these other women would make a fine story.

Their names are Caroline Wozniacki, Kateryna Bondarenko and Yanina Wickmayer.

Like Oudin, they won matches Monday to make it to their first Grand Slam quarterfinals. Like Oudin, they are two wins away from the final and a possible meeting with Serena Williams for the U.S. Open title.

Nice stories, indeed, at a tournament that has been turned upside down.

But not nearly enough to knock Oudin, the 17-year-old sparkplug from Marietta, Ga., out of the headlines.

"Nice for a change that somebody's coming up we haven't heard about much before," said none other than men's No. 1 Roger Federer, who blew out No. 14 Tommy Robredo to win his 38th straight match at Flushing Meadows.

Oudin

For the record, nobody asked Oudin what she thought about Federer on this day.

The 70th-ranked player in the world, sharing a room with her mom at a hotel in Manhattan, put together another come-from-behind upset in Queens, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3 over 13th-seeded Nadia Petrova.

Her next opponent is No. 9 Wozniacki, a 19-year-old from Denmark with more wins on tour than anyone this year, and none more important than Monday's. She's the only seeded player remaining on a side of the draw that has gone completely haywire.

A nice story, yes?

A lot of good that will do her come Wednesday evening against Oudin.

"Hopefully," Wozniacki said, "someone from the crowd will cheer for me."

On Monday in the fourth round, most of the cheers belonged, of course, to Oudin.

Against Petrova, she staved off two game points that would have put her behind 5-3 in the second. She improved her record to 6-1 at this summer's Grand Slams — Wimbledon and the U.S. Open — when she has lost the first set.

At Flushing Meadows, she has beaten No. 4 Elena Dementieva, No. 29 Maria Sharapova and now, Petrova, all in come-from-behind fashion.

"You don't know if she's winning or losing," said her father, John. "She doesn't seem nervous out there — and I don't know where that came from."

Wozniacki's 2-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) win over No. 6 Svetlana Kutsenova in a later match eliminated the only remaining player on that side of the draw with a Grand Slam tournament title to her credit.

It means all four of these quarterfinalists have every right to believe they could make it to the finals.

Only one, though, has that word — "Believe" — stamped there on her shoes.

"Right now, I think she'll play Serena in the finals," said Oudin's twin sister, Katherine, who was sobbing in the stands when it was over. "We're not going anywhere."

Nor, it seems, is Federer, whose 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Robredo was as much of a breeze as anyone can expect in the fourth round. He is seeking to become the first player to win six straight titles at this American major since Bill Tilden, back in the 1920s.

One more win and he'll extend another impressive streak, pushing it to 22 straight semifinal appearances in Grand Slams.

"I guess when it snaps is when it's a pity," Federer said. "As long as it's going, you go with it. It's not something I aim for. I'm aiming for almost bigger, to be quite honest."

His next match is against No. 12 Robin Soderling, who advanced when No. 8 Nikolay Davydenko retired with a leg injury at the start of the fourth set. Federer beat Soderling in the French Open final earlier this year to complete his career Grand Slam.

Others advancing to the quarterfinals were No. 4 Novak Djokovic and No. 10 Fernando Verdasco, who knocked American John Isner out and ensured there would be no American in the U.S. Open men's quarterfinals for the first time ever.

"Yeah, I knew that," Isner said. "I didn't really think too much about it."

Facing the winner of the Oudin-Wozniacki quarterfinal will be either Bondarenko, who also has a sister on tour, or Wickmayer, who advanced by beating Petra Kvitova — the player who earlier knocked out No. 1 Dinara Safina.

Area teams capture soccer tournaments

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

Labor Day weekend marked the opening of the WPIAL soccer season with three area teams winning tournament titles.

At the Belle Vernon event, Ringgold's boys went 3-0 to claim the championship.

In their first two contests, the Rams won 2-0 decisions over Waynesburg and Belle Vernon Area, respectively.

Against Waynesburg, Cameron Johnson and Tyler Zimmerman scored. Zimmerman and Skyler Fransko scored against BVA.

In the championship, Ringgold downed fifth-ranked Central Catholic, 2-1, on goals by Justin Mazzeo and Fransko.

"The boys played better each game and we didn't make any mistakes," said Ringgold coach Ron Fransko. "The defense played well and Johnny Sendek did a great job at sweeper. It really was a great team effort by everyone."

The lone goal scored on Rams' keeper Ryan Powell in the tournament was on a penalty kick.

BVA went 3-1 with wins over Charleroi (4-0), Chartiers Houston (8-0) and Connellsville (3-0). Charleroi was 2-1.

After losing to BVA, the Cougars blanked Waynesburg, 1-0, and downed Chartiers Houston 4-1.

The California boys and Charleroi girls were the Monessen tourney champs.

The Trojans downed Monessen, 2-1, in the finals after dropping Carrick, 4-1.

The Greyhounds topped St. Joseph, 2-1.

The Lady Cougars beat Beth-Center, 5-2, in the title contest after a 5-1 win over Chartiers-Houston.

In the opener, Shannon Flament scored three goals and Mara Spina added two.

In the title game, Flament scored twice with Brooke Addis, Alyssa Helster and Ronnie Brant adding one goal each. Helster was Most Valuable Player.

"We are very happy with how the girls played," said Charleroi coach Denver Byron. "Hopefully we can keep it going from there."

Monessen finished 1-1 in the tournament. After dropping a 4-2 contest to Beth-Center, the Lady Greyhounds downed Chartiers Houston, 5-3, in the consolation contest.

At the Hempfield boys' tournament, Elizabeth Forward went 2-1. but suffered a costly loss.

The Warriors lost to Gateway 1-0 in their opener when the Gators scored with 3:08 left in the contest.

During the match, team captain Dan Stitt was lost for the season due to an injury, according to coach Dave King.

The Warriors rebounded with contrasting wins over Kiski (11-1) and Thomas Jefferson (2-1).

Tyler Abels scored four goals and Nick Ragan finished with three against Kiski. Cam Easler, Deren Breitinger, John Turek, and Nate Pelco each added a goal.

Abels scored to break a 1-1 tie in the second half after the Jaguars tallied an "own goal" to give the Warriors a 1-0 lead.

At the South Hills Classic, Belle Vernon Area's girls finished 1-1 in the highly touted tournament.

After being shut out 4-0 by Peters Township in their opener, the Lady Leps bounced back with a 2-1 win over Chartiers Valley.

Kylee Heck and Marla Sasko scored goals for BVA.

"Peters is a very talented team and we bounced back against Chartiers," said BVA coach Paul Sasko. "We saw a few things to work on and we will go from there."

Ringgold's girls split their two games at the South Fayette tournament, losing to Gateway, 3-2, and downing Waynesburg, 3-1.

Amy Bracken and Nicole Welch scored against Gateway, while Angela Shelby scored twice against Waynesburg and Bracken added a goal.

The Elizabeth Forward Lady Warriors finished 1-1 at the Thomas Jefferson tournament.

After downing McGuffey 4-0 in their opener, the Lady Warriors lost 1-0 to the hosts.

REMEMBER when?

Gary Cramer was Belle Vernon Area's first Mon Valley Conference scoring champion in 1965 with 92 points.

SPORTS DIGEST

Miami upsets Florida State

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Bobby Bowden was absolutely certain that victory was imminent. Florida State had time for one final play, two yards separating the Seminoles from topping archrival Miami and getting the season off to a flying start.

"No doubt in my mind," Bowden said.

By now, shouldn't he really know better?

The program that has given Bowden more sleepless nights than any other struck again Monday night. Ailing arm and all, Jacory Harris threw for 386 yards — including a 40-yard pass over double coverage to Travis Benjamin that set up Graig Cooper's 3-yard touchdown run with 1:53 left — and led Miami past No. 18 Florida State 38-34 in a wild, back-and-forth game that both sides called a classic.

"It was a great game, though," Bowden said. "I guess it sounds funny to hear a losing coach say that."

That last play was a pass that Florida State's Jarmon Fortson nearly scooped atop the garnet-colored grass in the end zone as time expired.

Bradford won't need surgery

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford is not expected to need surgery on his sprained right shoulder and the quarterback could play again for No. 3 Oklahoma in two to four weeks.

Sooners coach Bob Stoops said the initial evaluations by doctors showed that Bradford did not suffer any damage to his collarbone, rotator cuff or other parts of his shoulder when he sprained his AC joint just before halftime of Oklahoma's 14-13 loss to No. 20 BYU on Saturday. Those evaluations also did not suggest surgery, although a second opinion is due Tuesday.

Bradford said he spoke Sunday with New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning, who had a bruised AC joint during his team's run to the Super Bowl two years ago. Bradford has been told he has a Grade 3 sprain. He started rehabbing Sunday.

Flu-like symptoms hit Mississippi

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — As many as 12 Mississippi players could miss practice because of flu-like symptoms. Coach Houston Nutt said that affected players are being tested for swine flu. Whatever strain it is, it's passing through the team quickly. Symptoms include vomiting and fever.

Nutt says several players were throwing up during Sunday's 45-14 win over Memphis. Safety Johnny Brown played through illness and took intravenous fluids at halftime but still led the team with 15 tackles.

But the illnesses come at a good time. The No. 8 Rebels have this week off before facing Southeastern Louisiana on Sept. 19.

Cassel's status not clear for opener

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Quarterback Matt Cassel appeared on Kansas City's practice field for the first time since injuring his left knee on Aug. 29, but his status for Sunday's opener at Baltimore remained unclear.

Cassel, who signed a six-year contract for a guaranteed $28 million, injured his knee on the third play of the third preseason game against Seattle. He was in full uniform Monday and did most of the conditioning drills in the short period the media were permitted to watch.

Memphis Grizzlies eyeing Iverson

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The owner of the Memphis Grizzlies and the team's staff met with Allen Iverson, moving closer to a deal bringing the veteran guard to a young team.

The meeting was in Atlanta, where the 34-year-old star has been working out recently with former teammate Eric Snow.

Trivia answer

New England, 30-14, in 2002.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Coached by Hal Hunter, California State College's football team was scheduled to open the season at Adamson Stadium against Carnegie Mellon and Chuck Klausing.

20 Years Ago

Mike Posey and Ryan Gargan each had four goals in Belle Vernon Area's 14-4 romp over Waynesburg.

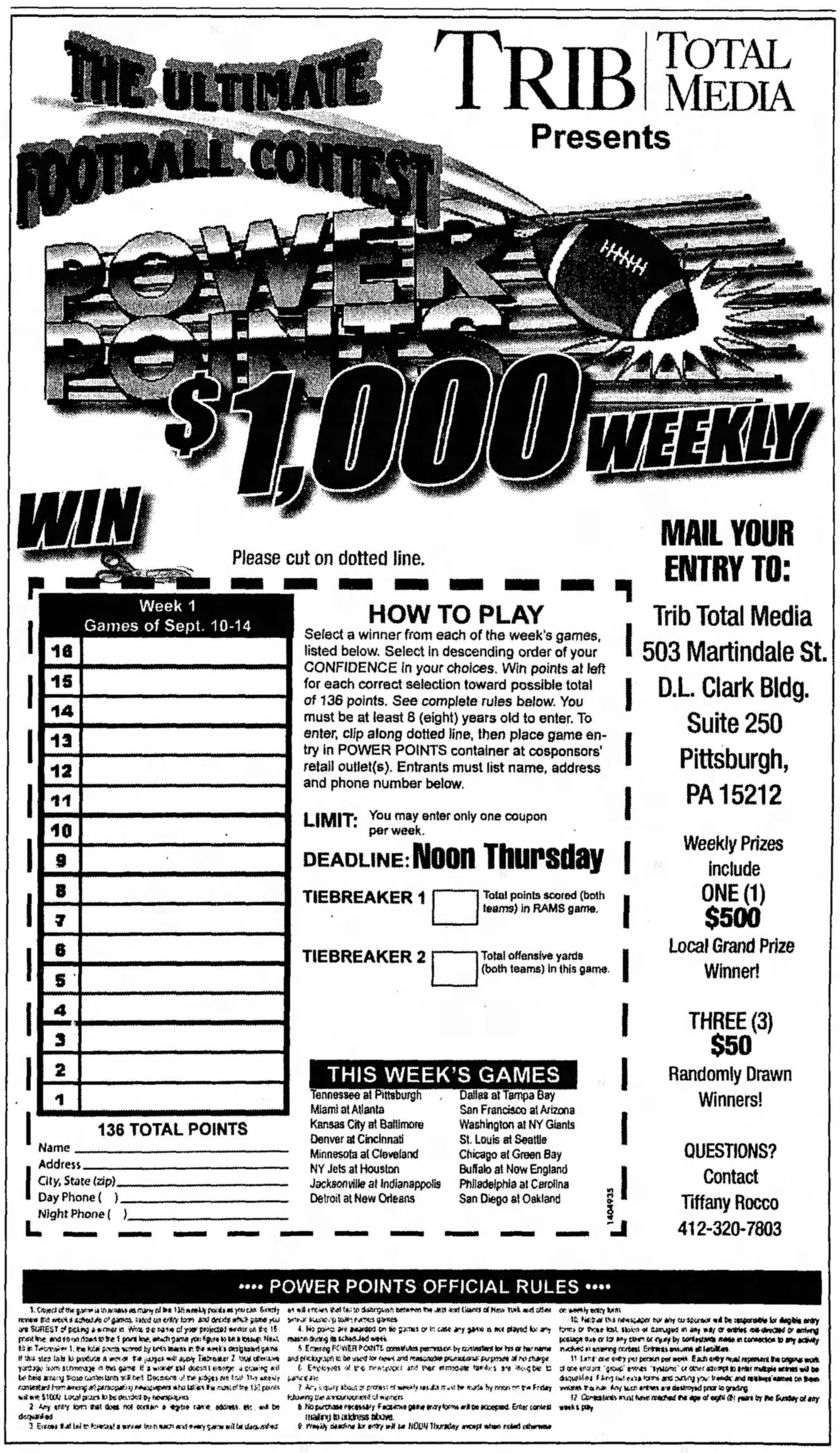
Alex Dado had three goals in Elizabeth Forward's 7-0 win over newcomer Washington.

Ringgold's boys played to a scoreless tie with Norwin.

10 Years Ago

Dave Seydor had five goals and two assists in Belle Vernon Area's 7-3 win over Yough.

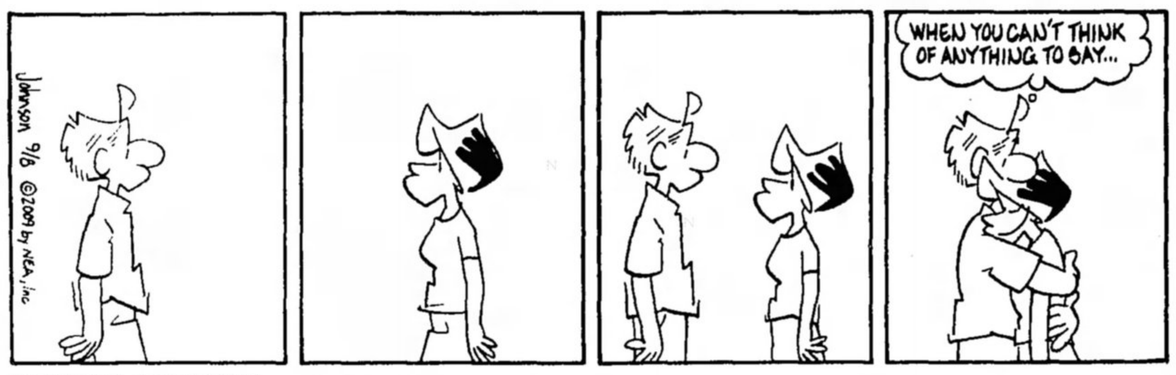
Ringgold downed Trinity, 4-1, with Joe Santina, Chris Jubic, Mike Tirpak and Josh Santina scoring goals.



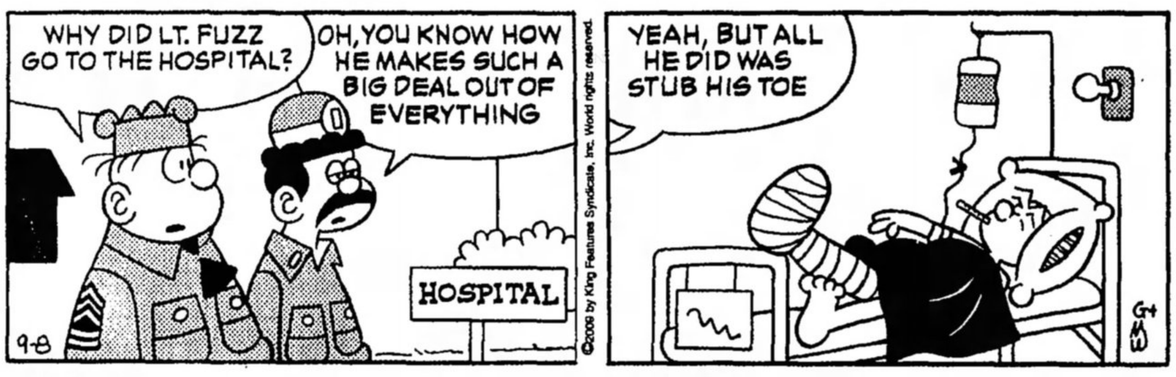
COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

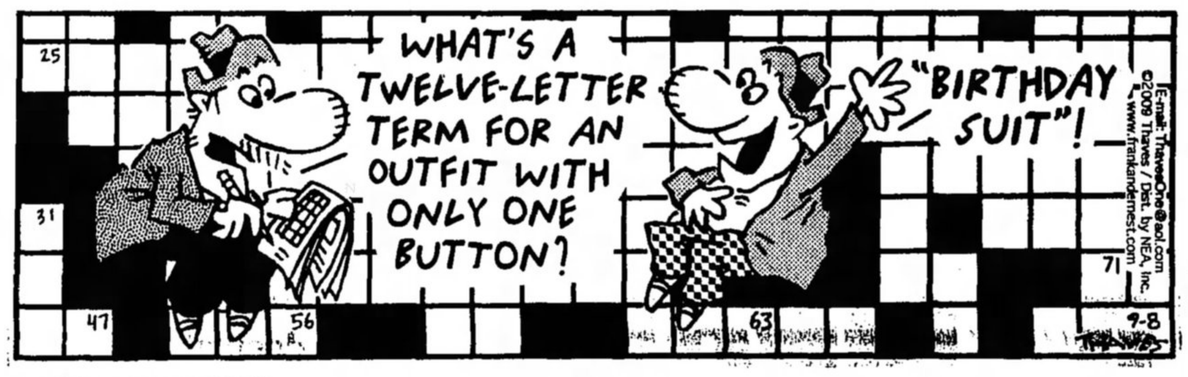


BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



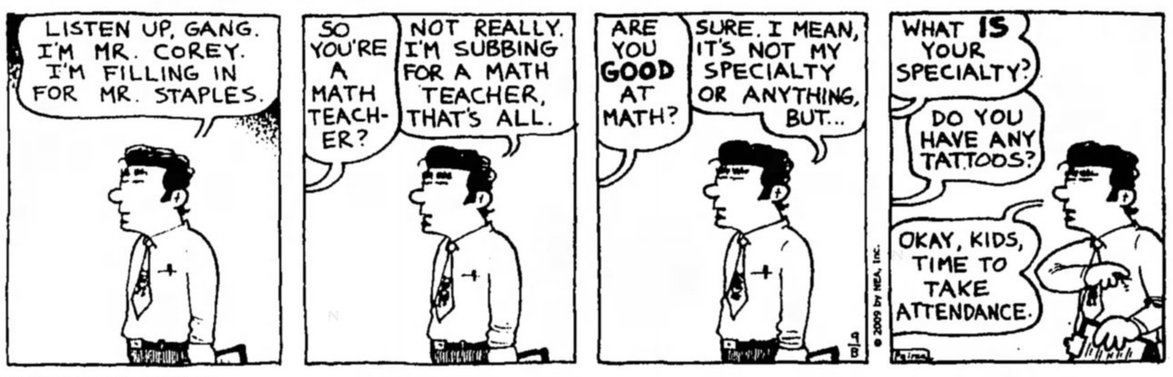
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

BIG NATE® by Lincolin Peirce

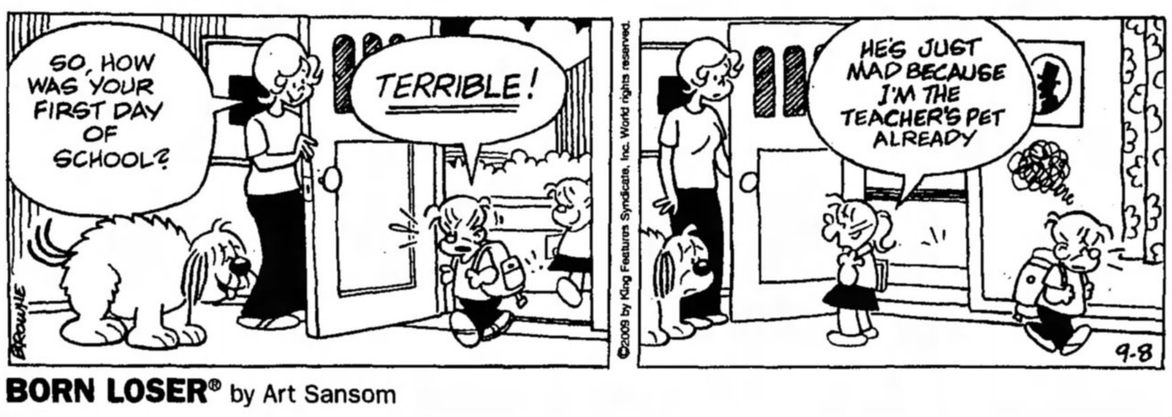


MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne



BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

BLONDIE® by Young and Marshall

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Just think — only 179 more days of school!"

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				1				4
	3		7					
6	9	7		8				3
			3			1		
7	5						8	6
		8			2			
3				5		4	7	2
					9		6	
4				2				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/08

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Answer to previous puzzle

8	7	4	1	5	3	6	2	9
6	3	1	2	7	9	4	5	8
9	5	2	4	8	6	1	7	3
2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3	7
3	9	6	7	2	5	8	1	4
4	8	7	9	3	1	5	6	2
5	4	9	3	1	7	2	8	6
7	2	8	5	6	4	3	9	1
1	6	3	8	9	2	7	4	5

Difficulty Level ★ 9/07

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THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Grass
4 Stick together
8 Auto-ad abbr.
11 — chi ch'uan
12 Adventure tale
13 Mr. Sevareid
15 Codgers' queries
16 Tall pine
18 Ice hockey gear
20 Cool
21 Strong soap
23 Crawling insect
24 Get along
27 Luncheonette list
29 Humorist
32 Chills and fever
33 Jai —
34 Future fish
35 Last letter
36 Factory
37 Stiffly decorous
38 Winding curve
39 Butter substitute
40 Dust devil
41 Crunch targets
42 Youth org.
44 Virtual
47 Welles or Bean
51 Exciting
55 Like some humor
56 Gentle exercise
57 Give — — up
58 King beater
59 Term of endearment
60 Melodrama
61 Soft touch

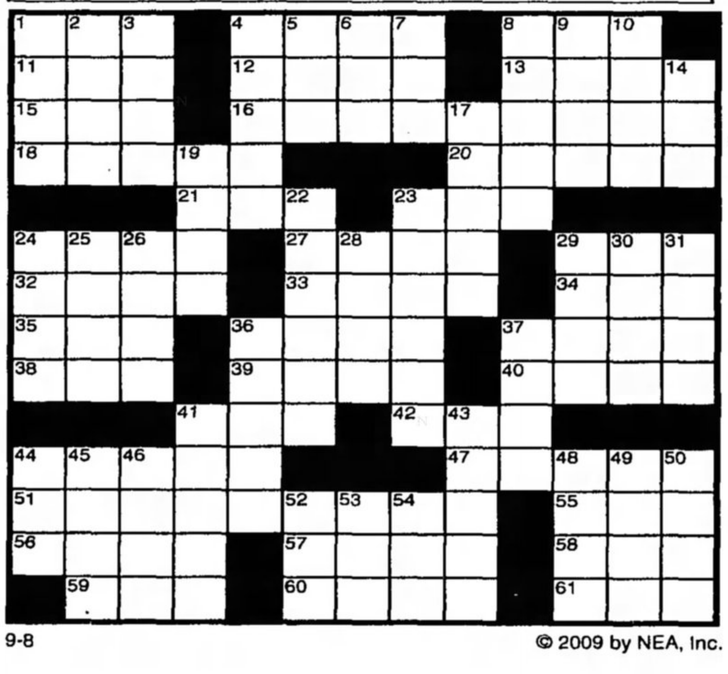
DOWN

1 Make a move
2 Waikiki setting
3 Compact —
4 Kind of cab
5 Philosopher — - tzu
6 Coffee brewer
7 Conclude
8 Deserve
9 Faculty mem.
10 Sum and substance
14 Coral formation
17 Weariness
19 MOMA artist
22 AOL notes (hyph.)
23 Not digital
24 Rattle
25 Long periods
26 Paris streets
28 Model — Macpherson
29 News
30 Greedy
31 Strong, as venison
36 Shell rival
37 Orchard product
41 Like pagodas
43 Damp
44 No.
45 Oops! (hyph.)
46 Cornstarch brand
48 Barter
49 Fierce whale
50 Boris' refusal
52 Swimmer's unit
53 Under par
54 Educational org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	N			D	A	B			K	O	A
A	W	E		C	O	C	O	A		E	D	S
M	O	M		A	L	I	G	N		L	I	P
P	L	O	D	D	E	D		G	A	P	E	S
			A	D	D		B	R	R			
P	A	D	D	Y		L	A	Y	E	T	T	E
O	R	E	S		G	U	T			H	O	W
M	L	B			L	I	T		S	A	L	E
P	O	T	P	I	E	S		I	C	I	E	R
			R	O	N		B	R	A			
L	I	K	E	N		P	O	I	N	T	E	D
A	D	E		I	C	O	N	S		R	Y	E
M	O	E		C	O	U	G	H		U	R	L
A	L	L			M	R	S			E	E	L

Want more puzzles?
Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



9-8 © 2009 by NEA, Inc.

FEATURES

Studs part of fall clothing lineup

Embellishments such as studs add zest because they pop out - especially against a black background.

By JoANNE KLIMOVICH-HARROP
For The Valley Independent
jharrop@tribweb.com

There will be plenty of studs for women to choose from this fall.

These studs are the decorations that take an outfit from plain to edgy. Add a few round pieces of metal to the front of a skirt, up the back of a pant leg, around a collar on a dress or along the belt line of a pair of jeans, and you've got a look that's fashion forward.

Embellishments such as studs add zest because they pop out - especially against a black background. And you won't just see them on clothes. Lots of shoe designers have added studs to their collections, from a few on a pair of knee-high boots to multiple studs along the straps of high-heel sandals.

Studs at the waistband create a belt-like illusion that transforms a basic pair of blue or black jeans into nighttime glitzy attire.

"Studs have a punky influence to them," says Tracey Lomrantz, Slaves to Fashion blogger for Glamour.com. "So the best way to wear this trend is to pair it with something feminine or basic. Put on studded boots with a floral dress or chiffon top, or go for studded jeans with a solid shirt or blazer. That way, you still get the effect, without overdoing it."

Keeping the rest of the look neutral is important, Lomrantz says, because studs themselves give off enough of a punky vibe.

You don't have to invest a lot of money to try studs. Start with an accessory such as a belt, handbag or headband. For those more daring, Genetic Denim has a line of studded jeans, called "Shane." The embellishments double as a belt.

"Jeans with studs have been our focus for fall, and they are doing immensely well," says Genetic Denim creative director and founder Ali Fatourechi. "We have definitely paid attention to detail with these jeans and have created a two-for-one look with studs at the waistline, where you don't need a belt. The process we use to attach the studs makes our jeans unique."

The studs are made of metal and placed between two pieces of lightweight fabric. They also are machine washable.

Shoes are always a great way to get introduced to a trend.

"Studs add an element of rocker chic to each silhouette, which makes them not only cool but also very of-the-moment for the fall season," says shoe designer Stuart Weitzman. "But, like anything in design, less is always more."

Studs help bring an outfit up a notch and give it more of a downtown hip-girl vibe, says Antonia Sardone, senior market editor for *Women's Wear Daily.*

On the runway, John Paul Gaultier's studded biker jacket is the perfect example of this trend, she says. Accessories with studs from Burberry and Dolce & Gabbana also stood out on the runway.

"The thing is, if you aren't comfortable wearing studs, it will show, because you won't have confidence and it most likely will feel like you are wearing a costume," Sardone says. "So choose an accessory to give you some attitude, while still allowing you to look good."

The way to wear studs without looking too tough is to go easy, says Michael Carl, Allure magazine fashion director.

"Don't overdo it. Just like any hard thing to wear, keep it simple," he says. "A splash of neon helps an outfit look cool, a statement necklace can turn a simple black dress into something stunning, and a few studs can make an outfit just a little bit edgy - that is, assuming your aren't sporting a Mohawk."

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■ Arthritis Support Group meeting, Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, Monongahela Valley Hospital, 1 p.m.

■ Donora High School Class of 1960 get-together, Duke's Cafe, 6 p.m.

■ Thomas McKee American Legion Post 28, Monessen, dinner meeting, Alpine Club, 6:30 p.m.

■ James C. Ford American Legion Post 949, Carroll Township, meeting, 8 p.m.

■ Angel Food registration, First Presbyterian Church, Monongahela, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Fayette County American Legion Committee meeting, Post 423, Masontown, 7 p.m.

■ Monongahela Area Library board of trustees meeting, library, 7 p.m.

■ American Legion Post 659, Belle Vernon, club meeting, 7 p.m., legion meeting afterward.

■ Former Page Steel and Wire employees luncheon meeting, Denny's restaurant, Rostraver Township, noon.

■ Needle and yarn craft workshop, Mingo Creek County Park, shelter 4, 10 a.m. to noon.

■ Washington Township board of supervisors meeting, community building, 1392 Fayette Ave., Belle Vernon, 7 p.m.

■ Grocery bingo and Chinese auction, St. Paul Episcopal Church, 130 W. Main St., Monongahela, 7 p.m.

■ Twilight Borough tax collector office hours, 6 to 7 p.m.

■ Mon Valley Rebekahs 82 card party, Odd Fellows Hall, Gastonville, 7 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Square dance scheduled

The Happy Go Lucky Dance Club will sponsor a free introductory square dance 8 to 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Dravosburg No. 2 fire fall, off the Pittsburgh McKeesport Boulevard. The first full lesson will be Sept. 17. For information, call Martha at (412) 384-9669 or Carol at (412) 885-6233.

Ham dinner planned at St. Nicholas Byzantine

The Ladies Altar Society at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Perryopolis, will sponsor a ham dinner to benefit the renovation fund 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday in the church hall. Takeouts will be available 11 a.m. to noon (container provided). Sit-down dinners will be available noon to 3 p.m. The menu will comprise ham, potatoes, green beans, applesauce, rolland butter, dessert, and beverage.

Fall festival planned at Rehoboth Presbyterian

Rehoboth Presbyterian Church in Rostraver Township will sponsor its fall festival 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The event will comprise carnival games, a children's area, bake sale and food. For information, call (724) 929-7020.

Spaghetti dinner set

Holy Family Parish, Second Avenue, West Newton, will sponsor a spaghetti dinner 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday in the social hall. Takeouts will be available.

Frugal Living

Save on appliances

Sara **NOEL**

Be smart when you're in the market for new appliances.

You don't get much advance notice when a major appliance breaks. This leaves you in a vulnerable situation because you rely on these appliances on a daily basis.

These big-ticket items can cost you a lot more if you're not prepared. Here are a few ways to help you avoid spending more than you have to.

KNOW WHAT YOU NEED: The stores feature the highest-priced appliances like Corvettes in a showroom.

It can be tempting to buy an appliance with lots of bells and whistles. If there are features you know you'll never use, don't overbuy.

Look at the base models, and work your way up rather than looking at the most expensive first, or every appliance you look at afterward will seem less appealing.

The top-three most expensive will often be featured close together. You'll be more likely to choose a more expensive appliance based on the top-three options.

If you start from the lowest-priced, your comparisons are more accurate and not driven by marketing tactics.

Look at the energy guides on each appliance. They tell you how much each machine costs to operate. Measure and know what size you need. Also, if you're handy or you know a handyman, consider installing the appliance on your own.

Be wise when buying this season's trendy color. Major appliances last longer than the trend. Today's stainless steel is tomorrow's harvest gold.

LOOK FOR DEALS: Maybe your appliance can be repaired or you can buy a used or reconditioned appliance.

Do comparison shopping. If you're looking to simply upgrade, buy major appliances in the fall (September and October), as stores need to make room for new arrivals. Ask retail-appliance sellers questions, too.

■ Do they offer package deals if you buy more than one appliance?

■ Can you get free delivery?

■ Do they sell floor models or scratch-and-dent models?

■ Do they honor price adjustments if the appliance goes on sale within 30 days, or do they know whether it will be on sale soon?

■ Is there a rebate or any type of promotion, such as a gift card or product incentive, if you buy the appliance?

■ Do they price match?

■ Do they accept trade-ins or at least haul your old appliance?

■ What is the manufacturer's warranty? Say no to extended warranties. According to Consumer Reports, extended warranties aren't worth buying because the appliance doesn't typically break within the warranty time, costs less to repair, or the problem isn't covered by warranty.

■ Where is a repair/service center located? Is it near you?

MAKE MONEY: Can you sell your old appliance?

If it's still in good condition, place an ad or donate it. Call your local utility company or local government office to find out whether they have a recycling-rebate program for old appliances.

If not, see whether you can start a program in your local community. Check your local yellow pages for scrap-metal dealers. Call and see whether you can sell your appliance there or at least strip the wires or any copper tubing.

To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: G equals P

"G X Y K B O M I K Z Y T X F B W N C X D N I Y N N W M J N C C M R M W U X W C N W H, P N W K M W U K X D C O M W K Z Y N M B." - V N B C I N W H S F B U

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "A truly American sentiment recognizes the dignity of labor and the fact that honor lies in honest toil." - Grover Cleveland

We're seeking Active Seniors

Do you know an older Valley resident who just does not understand the meaning of retirement? Your friend could be featured in Active Seniors, which appears each Friday. To nominate an Active Senior, e-mail to jabramowitz@tribweb.com or call Joe Abramowitz at (724) 684-2634.

When you come home ...

When submitting Valley on Vacation photographs, please list the community of your residence and the communities of residence of everyone featured in your vacation photograph. In addition, print your telephone number on the back of the photograph, just in case we have any questions.

Valley Exports appears each Saturday

HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CREATION *Challenge!*

Calling all bakers and cupcake decorators!

Register today to compete in the HOLIDAY CUPCAKE CREATION CHALLENGE at the GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food & Cooking Expo on Saturday, November 7, 2009.

The Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge is a cupcake decorating competition, benefiting Operation Santa Claus*. Contestants will have the chance to create their most unique holiday cupcake(s) and compete for a **$1,000 grand prize** courtesy of Relish Magazine!

To enter, visit **contests.TribLIVE.com**, upload a photo of a cupcake that you've decorated and submit your $10.00 registration fee!

Portion of the proceeds benefits Operation Santa Claus.

To enter by mail, see details on the form below.

Don't wait, deadline to register is 5 pm September 25, 2009!

Not a baker? You can still get involved!
Starting September 25, (5:30p.m.) visit **contests.TribLIVE.com** and vote for your favorites! Give 5 lucky contestants the chance to compete in person at the GoodTaste! Pittsburgh Food and Cooking Expo.

SPONSORED BY GoodTaste! Pittsburgh relish TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS *Operation Santa Claus is a non-profit organization that works in conjunction with the Salvation Army to deliver complete holiday meals to needy families throughout the region.*

Official Rules

1. To enter, visit contests.TribLIVE.com or return your completed entry form, cake photo and $10.00 required registration fee to: Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge, c/o Trib Total Media, 503 Martindale St., Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. 2. Color or black/white 4x6 photos will be accepted. Photos can not be returned, but will be available for pick up following the selection of contestants at the Trib Total Media offices located at the address listed above. 3. All entries must be received by 5:00 PM Friday, September 25, 2009. 4. Only one photo per contestant will accepted. 5. Trib Total Media readers will cast their votes for their favorite cakes by ballots online at contests.TribLIVE.com. 6. Contest will consist of an entry period (August 24 - September 25) and voting period (September 25 - October 16). 7. 1st place prize will include $1,000 cash courtesy of Relish Magazine and other prizes as yet to be determined. 2nd and 3rd place prizes will also be awarded. 8. Contest is open to all bakers – amateur and professional – residing within the Trib Total Media home delivery area. Employees of Trib Total Media and sponsor companies are not eligible to participate. 9. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulation apply. 10. Additional rules and regulations may apply. 11. Donations are voluntary. Entry and voting may be done at minimal cost by visiting contests.TribLIVE.com or contacting Trib Total Media Marketing Department at 412.320.7941.

Deadline to enter is Friday, September 25 at 5:00 PM. Enter online at **contests.TribLIVE.com** or complete this form, and return it along with your cake photo and $10.00 required entry fee (make checks payable to Operation Santa Claus) to: Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge, c/o Trib Total Media, 503 Martindale Street, D.L. Clark Building, Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. DO NOT ABBREVIATE.

1398902

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____

email: _____@_____._____

The Valley INDEPENDENT

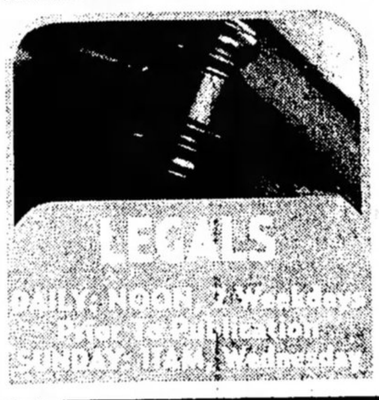
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLASSIFIED

EASTGATE 19, MONESSEN, PA 15062
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM

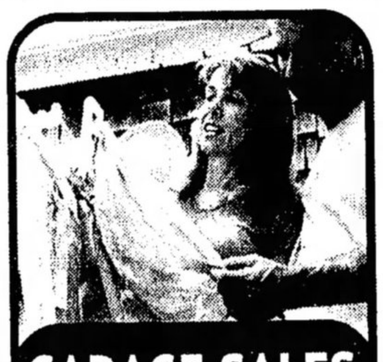
VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 724.684.5200 FAX: 724.684.2602

RECRUITMENT
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

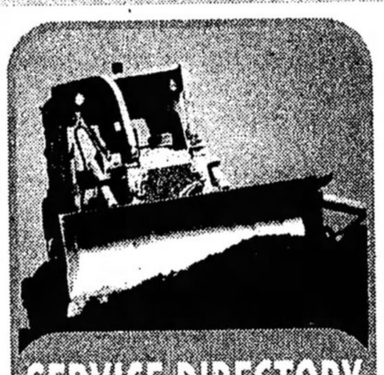


LEGALS
DAILY: Noon, 2 Weekdays Prior To Publication
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

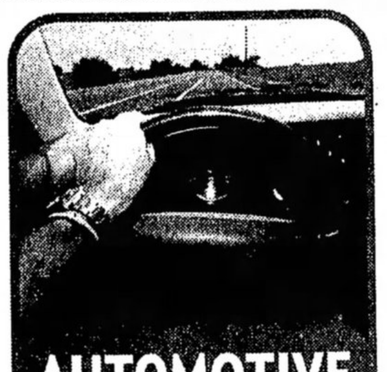
MERCHANDISE
4 LINES 4 DAYS $14.30 PRE-PAY
7 LINES 7 DAYS $20.00 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



GARAGE SALES
5 LINES 3 DAYS $18.65 PRE-PAY
10 LINES 3 DAYS $21.00 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



SERVICE DIRECTORY
3 LINES • 30 DAYS
$59.77 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday



AUTOMOTIVE
4 LINES • 26 DAYS
$34.78 PRE-PAY PRIVATE PARTY ONLY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

RUN UNTIL IT SELLS!
4 LINES
PRIVATE PARTY MERCHANDISE ONLY. NO BUSINESSES, AUTOS, BOATS, RV'S, REAL ESTATE, MOBILE HOMES OR APARTMENTS.
ASKING PRICE OF ITEM IS REDUCED EVERY TWO WEEKS BY 5%
$19.45 PRE-PAY
DAILY: 1:30PM, Day Prior
MONDAY: 4:30PM, Friday
SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

PRE-PAY WITH VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Tribune-Review Publishing Company reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. MISPRINTS: Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. The Tribune-Review Publishing Company will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. CONFIDENTIALITY: Confidential box numbers – we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who wish to protect their identity can do so as follows: Place your reply in an envelope addressed to the File Box at the Valley Independent Classified Department, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. NOTICE: All real-estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicaps, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

COOKS, Servers, Bartender for newly remodeled restaurant. Apply in person Ponce's Place 715 Rt. 481, Monongahela. 724-258-6654.

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, currently seeking full & part-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton & Elizabeth areas. No experience necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

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& so much more!!
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TRIB LIVE

1000/GEN/RECRUITMENT

DRIVERS
Van Drivers for School Transportation. Monessen & Belle Vernon areas. No experience necessary. Will train. AM/PM Hours. Competitive Wages.
724-925-8634

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

WEEKENDS Are Made For Family. Share your good times with children. FCCY is looking for weekend & full-time foster parents. Call 1-800-747-3807. EOE.

1025/DRIVERS

DRIVERS local and regional positions available. Must have Class A CDL with at least 2 yrs. driving exp. Excellent pay, benefits & 401K. Call Mon.-Fri. 8-5 1-800-811-0947.

1040/MEDICAL

Highlands Hospital

Mental Health In-Patient Program Staff
LPN-Full-time, rotating shifts
Social Worker MSW-Full-time, mostly daylight w/ some evening hours
Activities Therapist-Full-time, mostly daylight w/ some evening hours. Requires Bachelors degree in psychology or art/recreation therapy, with some general experience in the field.
Inpatient program serves adolescent through geriatric age groups. Prefer minimum 1 year experience in behavioral health or sincere interest in learning behavioral health field. Some weekend hours required. Comprehensive wage and benefit package. Free adjacent parking. On-site fitness center! Easy location, 15 minutes from New Stanton via Rt. 119S, 15 minutes from Rt. 51 in Perryopolis via Rt. 201S. Send resume or call for application:
Human Resources Dept.
Highlands Hospital
401 E. Murphy Ave.
Connellsville, PA 15425
724-626-2314 E.O.E.

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1040/MEDICAL

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1040/MEDICAL

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Full-time, for busy medical office in Belle Vernon. Front & back office exp. Benefits available. Send resume to P.O. Box 660, Belle Vernon, PA 15012.

Looking for something?
Find it in our classified section
• Antiques
• Items For Sale
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& MORE!
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www.tribtotalmedia.com

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Instead of canceling your subscription while you are out of town, participate in the Vacation Donation program to deliver your morning newspaper into the hands of students in your local schools!
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4100/PERSONALS

4100/PERSONALS

4100/PERSONALS

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4100/PERSONALS

FIND IT FIRST AND QUICK IN THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Service Directory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND BUSINESSES IN THE MID-MON VALLEY

APPLIANCE PARTS

CHARLEROI SWEEPER vacuums - repairs - parts. 618 Fallowfield Ave. 724-483-3397.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

APPLIANCE REPAIR

APPLIANCE REPAIR Center. Call 724-684-4432 or 724-797-0644.

ASPHALT

DRIVEWAY Paving-asphalt sealer coatings. Free est. Jim Lovell. 724-925-6498 or 724-635-0054.

AUTO SERVICE/REPAIRS

WEIDMAN TRANSMISSIONS Import Specialist, Domestic, Heavy Equipment & Allison Trucks. Call Jim 412-384-4822.

GRECO'S Automotive Services. PA Enhanced emission testing, remanufacture used motors & trans. installed, head gaskets, clutches, computer diagnostic, major auto repair. Insured. 724-938-2911, 800-640-2902. ASE Certified

TOTALLY TRUSTED TREGEMBO MOTORS ALL MAKES / ALL MODELS ALL JOBS - Big OR Small T-I-R-E SAVINGS ! Pickup / Deliv Avail BENTLEYVILLE tregembomotors.com 724-239-2200

BUILDING MATERIALS

RAILROAD TIES All Grades & Sizes Call 724-489-1180

CARPETING

CALL Carpeting Unlimited for a personal evening viewing of new flooring in your home. Carpet, hardwood, ceramic, cork, formica & vinyl. Tues. - Wed. -Thurs., 8am - 4pm or by appt. 724-258-4845.

CARPET CLEANING

CLEANS GREAT & dries quickly. NO SOAKING! Call Tri County Chem Dry 724-483-9553.

MILLER'S Magic Carpet Cleaning. Whole house special $139*. Clean 4 areas for only $109. Powerful truck mounted units. 724-483-2370.

CLEANING SERVICES

SPOTLESS CLEANING general/housecleaning at it's best. Dependable. References. 724-872-1089.

CONCRETE & BLOCK

DAVIS Landscaping & Trucking - doing exposed & stamped concrete, all block walls, porches, walks, driveways & floors. 14 yrs. craftsmanship. No job too big or too small. 724-258-8939.

ELECTRICAL

JACK'S ELECTRICAL Contracting. Specializing in older homes. More than 25 years. Free est. 724-489-9109.

ELECTRICAL CONTINUED

O&O ELECTRIC- new & old work. Free est., fully ins. Alan 724-433-2183.

ENTERTAINMENT

DJ/Karaoke Service Clubs, Parties, Events karaokekenny.com or 724-684-4930.

EXCAVATING & LANDSCAPING

Retaining Walls Built, Sewer & Water Lines, Landscaping Supplies 724-562-0362 (cell) or 724-379-5115.

EXTERMINATING SERVICES

TERMITE Bating...$450. Complete pest elimination. Toll free 1-888-564-2864.

FENCING

DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. rea. rates. 724-929-3218.

FIREWOOD

SPLIT, SEASONED 1/2 cord, $65 full cord, $130 Call 724-640-5277.

FIREWOOD unsplit. Perry/Belle Vernon area. We will load. Call 724-323-4835.

FLOOR INSTALLATION

ROBERT HANNAN vinyl, hardwood, carpeting, ceramic. Ins. Guaranteed. 724-929-4330

GLASS BLOCK

GLASS BLOCK Panels made to fit any opening, installation avail. 724-379-4255.

HAIR

SNOBALL'S TANNING - HAIR - MAKE-UP ALL NEW BEDS AND A NEW STAND-UP (724) 489-1669.

HANDYPERSON

TOTAL Home Repair. 35 years experience. Call Al 724-205-8406.

HAULING

HAULING cleanouts, cleaning, yard/shrub work, some moving. Dep., ins. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.

CLEAN OUT whole house, basements, stores, attics, sheds. Scrap metal hauled. 724-483-2140.

HERK'S HAULING Stone, Cleanouts, etc. No job too small! 724-929-9013.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

STASKO Restoration all your home needs. Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTINUED

CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned. 724-348-6276.

TED'S Painting & all repairs in & outside of home. 724-258-2796 or 724-469-0060.

RAINEY ENTERPRISE Quality work at a reasonable price. Garage pkg"s., additions,new construction, renovations, siding, soffit & fascia, roofing, concrete, retaining walls. 724-929-8733.

HOME REPAIR

HANDYMAN MATTERS Bonded & Insured. BBB. Complete Bathroom Remodel Starting at $5,995. PA:000215 724-258-4884.

LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

LYNCH Landscape Supply. Topsoil, mulches, mushroom composte, deco stone, river stone, limestone, sand, Keystone, retaining walls & more. Venetia 724-348-5518. Belle Vernon 724-929-2177.

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Bentleyville 721 Main St. OPEN 24 HOURS 412-215-0661.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING

Call XTREME LANDSCAPING for all your lawn & landscaping needs. LOW RATES. Free est. 724-350-7357 or 724-684-8108.

LAWN & LANDSCAPING CONTINUED

DAVIS Landscaping & Trucking. Retaining walls, all types concrete, trim, edge, remulching, all types drain work. No job too big or too small. 724-258-8939.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR

BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.

LAWN SERVICE

LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.

AFFORDABLE Lawn Care. Best Rates. Senior Disc. 724-396-0660.

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John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. 724-628-7349. Cell: 814-853-7069. PA1637

MOVING and STORAGE

FRETZ TRANSFER 724-684-8499, 724-929-6869 & Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Monessen. Local moving & storage.

PAINTING

BOB's - Professional painting at rea. prices. New home const., ptg. & staining. Sr. Cit. Disc. Fully ins. 724-929-6595, 929-9313.

M.V. PAINTING - Int. & ext. Experienced & Insured. Free est. Will beat any reasonable price. 724-929-1620.

INT. EXT. painting. Exp'd., insured, free est., affordable. Michael Lundy. 724-292-9004.

EVANS PAINTING Voted Valley Favorite. Int. & ext. ptg. 724-344-4984, 724-489-4457.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

PLASTERING

PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters. 724-929-9765.

Donna Mae Russo, Santi "Sonny" Russo and Ron Matay
Business Listing Under APPLIANCE PARTS
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PLASTERING CONTINUED

FANALA PLASTERING 25 Yrs. Exp. Fully Ins. Call 724-747-4373.

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QUICK RESPONSE Plumbing. Heat/AC. Registered Master. Certified gas line installer. Expert sewer cleaning. Ins. 866-732-4433 or 724-258-7724

LENDWAY & SONS General Plumbing. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

WATER HEATER problems? Call Tom Patterson your Rheem Water Heater Specialist. 724-929-6797.

SEWAGE - Plumbing gas, water, electric lines, trenching, oil tanks. 724-562-3092. CWS Inc.

ROOFING

LARRY'S CONT. reasonable, reliable, new roofs & repairs, gutters cleaned, prompt service. 724-483-3117.

ROOFING, siding, windows, doors, additions, garages, porch roofs, decks, gutters. Michael Smaracheck 724-469-6560.

LENDWAY & SONS ROOFING, siding, decks & additions. 724-348-4644, 724-379-4962.

SEPTIC CLEANING

MG SEPTIC & Drain Cleaning. Fair Prices. For professional service you won't want to miss! Call Joseph Manack anytime. 724-929-8152.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

TREE REMOVAL

3G'S TREES & stump removal. Bucket Truck Service. Free est., fully ins. 724-489-4180, 724-483-6205.

TREE PRO - tree removal specialist. Best deals! Free est. Henry. 724-929-6097 724-797-4944.

Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

TREE SERVICE

TREECISION Free estimates, Insured Professional Service 724-288-3904 or 724-797-2505.

WINDOWS

CCS INC. windows, roofing, siding. 724-348-6276.

DHCS Windows & Doors. $185 window install. 724-797-1486.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PICTURES TO FEATURE YOU
on the job performing your service, as shown above right.
You can mail photos to
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Eastgate 19
Monessen, Pa 15062
or email to rmoreschi@tribweb.com
(please include your name & business)

1050/SALES

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1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DONORA ROUTES OPEN
3rd, Allen, Castner
20 Papers
1st, Allen, Kenric
Market
20 Papers
No Collecting
Call
724-684-2647

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Legros, John B.
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of JOHN B. LEGROS of Stockdale, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Letters testamentary for the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to those indebted therein to make immediate payment and to those having claims or demands to present them for settlement.

Yvonne Waller,
Executrix
PO Box 146
Fayette City, PA 15438

Brian G. Pirilla, Esq.
PO Box 718
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
8/25;9/1,8

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Smith, Vaughn E.
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of Vaughn E. Smith, Deceased.
Late of Jeannette City, Westmoreland County, PA

LETTERS of Administration on the above Estate have been granted to the undersigned, who request all persons having claims or demands against the estate of the decedent to make known the same and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment without delay to Lori Smith, Administratrix, *13640 Ridge Road*, Irwin, PA 15642,
Or to her Atty:
John R. Zonarich
Skarlatos & Zonarich LLP
17 S. 2nd St., 6th Fl.
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2039
9/1,8,15

Wiles, George
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of George B. Wiles, Jr., a/k/a George B. Wiles, deceased. Late of Monongahela, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary on *the above Estate having* been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to those indebted thereto to make immediate payment and to those having claims or demands to present them for settlement.

David R. Metz
1335 Wickerham Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
Executor

Keith A. Bassi,
Esquire
Bassi, McCune & Vreeland, P.C.
P.O. Box 144
111 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
9/1,8,15

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2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

The Belle Vernon Area School District Board of Education is accepting *sealed bids for the* REPLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF WHEELCHAIR LIFTS AT THE ROSTRAVER MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Specifications and bid documents are available in the District Administration Office located at 270 Crest Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012-4200; phone: 724-808-2500 Extension 7121.

Sealed bids must be in the possession of the Business Manager or her authorized representative no *later than* 2:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Friday, September 11, 2009 at which time bids will be opened and read aloud in the District Administration Office Board Room, 270 Crest Avenue, Belle Vernon, PA 15012-4200. Bidder(s) may be present for the opening of bids. Any bid(s) received after the specified date and time will be returned to the bidder(s) unopened. *Bids will be officially* recorded at the regular meeting of the Board of Education scheduled for 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, on Monday, September 28, 2009.

The Belle Vernon Area School District Board of Education reserves the right to: (1) accept or reject any and all bids; and, (2) waive any technicalities or informalities in any bid, *and will be the sole* judge in the decision as to which bid is most applicable and acceptable.

BY ORDER
OF THE BOARD
James M. McKevitt
Board Secretary
8/26,31;9/8

EVERYTHING YOU WANT AND NEED
AUTOMOTIVE
REAL ESTATE
HELP WANTED
CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

2020/BID NOTICES

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Monessen will receive sealed bids for the City of Monessen Oil & Gas Lease Bid Proposal until 10:00 A.M. (prevailing local time), September 11, 2009, at the Office of the City Clerk, Mon Valley Health Center Building, 4th Floor, Eastgate 8, Monessen, PA 15062. Verbal, telegraph, telephone or facsimile (Faxing) of bids will not be acceptable. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 10:00 AM (prevailing local time) on the 11th day of September 2009 at the Mon Valley Health Center Building, 4th Floor, Eastgate 8, Monessen, PA.

Envelopes containing proposals shall be sealed and clearly marked "City of Monessen Oil and Gas Lease Bid Proposal".

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, bank cashier's or trust company treasurer's check or approved surety company's bid bond made payable to the City of Monessen, in the *amount of Ten Thousand* ($10,000) Dollars.

Bidders' proposal shall be for Drilling and Production of Oil described in the Instructions to Bidders.

Instructions to Bidders are on file at the above office of the Owner where they may be examined and preparatory to and during bidding. Copies may be obtained from the Monessen City Clerk.

The Monessen City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or parts *thereof, or items* therein, and to waive any technicalities or informalities in bidding.

Bids shall remain open for a period of 65 days and no bid or part, or parts thereof, or items therein, shall be withdrawn for a period of 65 days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Owner.

Anthony Petaccia,
Mayor
City of Monessen
8/29;9/4,8

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

2 LEVEL LOTS at MV Memorial Park in Well of Semaria section, near main road, across from old school. $1045 for both. 724-929-4578

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING?
LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
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-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

WEDDING DRESS- size 8, brand new. Pd. $300 now $75. 724-379-4576 or 724-263-2829

WOMEN'S (M) new fleece lounging pants, $4 or $7 for both. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S assorted dress/casual shoes size 9, $5 a pair. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

Looking for a new best friend?
Find one in PETS!
CLASSIFIEDS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

WOMEN'S baseball style fleece (M) jackets, $5 each or $13 all. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S gray winter *boots size 9, never* worn, $5. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S M 2 pc. mauve fleece set, like new $10. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

WOMEN'S M burgundy micro fiber winter coat with hood, $20. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

5010/APPLIANCES

REFRIGERATOR dorm size $20.00
Call
724-684-7289.

WASHER- Whirlpool. Works very good. $50. Call 724-489-9793.

5020/ARTICLES

2 STEEL DOORS- new! 36". $50 each. Call 724-379-6160.

BACKPACK like new, good for hikers, $5.00
Call
724-929-3891.

5020/ARTICLES

BEDSPREAD twin, red, $6. Sheet set beige print full size $7. 724-225-4628.

BOOKCASE- 3 shelf, *oak finish*, good condition. $15. Call 724-379-9547.

CATALOG CASE rolling, locking handles, many compartments, new $60. 724-929-3891.

COMFORTER SKIRT sham, sheets, twin size, $12.00. Call 724-225-4628.

COMFORTER twin, beige print, $8.00
Call
724-225-4628.

CURLING IRON professional Conair, $10 or best offer. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

CURTAINS 53"Wx79L, white $5. Silk flower table centerpiece, nice $8. 724-225-4628.

DISH SET- Pfaltzgraff, 93 pcs. "Rio" pattern. $200. 412-805-8760.

EDGE TRIMMER- hand held, chargeable battery. Good condition. $7. Call 724-929-4767.

FINE CHINA service for 8, extras, call for details, $200. 724-929-3891.

HAIRSETTER instant Clairol $15 or best offer. After 5pm 724-684-9518.

ICE SKATES women's size 10, new $20; Kohler toilet 1.6 gpf $30; blender/smoothie maker $10. 724-483-1801.

INTERIOR DOOR- new, white, in jamb. $25. Call 724-379-7384.

KITCHEN LIGHT 16" octagon, white, $8.00
Call
724-225-4628.

LOUNGE CHAIR- large, maroon. $50. Call 724-379-8026.

MUSICAL Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus $17; Christmas wreaths $5 ea.; Christmas figurines 25 cents-50 cents ea. 724-258-2395.

5020/ARTICLES

MATTRESS cover full size $7. Shower curtain, white $7. Call 724-225-4628.

PEPSI COOLER old 2'x4'x42"H, works good, $75.00. Call 724-684-7289.

POOL TABLE- game-room size, $150; also: FREEZER- large, $40. Call 412-805-8760.

PORCH CHAIR metal bouncy, has surface rust, $5.00. Call 724-379-5104.

PORTA POTTI never used, good for camping, camper, cottage, $40. 724-684-7289.

REMOTE CONTROL CAR, Cadillac LMP, like new, Radio Shack. $40. 724-379-9547.

SEWING MACHINE Fur Machine, $200.00
Call
724-326-5556.

SEWING MACHINE Blind Stitch, $200.00
Call
724-326-5556.

SHOWER CURTAIN with valance, white $7. Bath rug 23"x36", pink $5. 724-225-4628.

TIFFANY Chandelier with 4 lights $25.00
Call
724-258-2395.

WALL UNIT- 3 piece, w/ glass shelves & lighting. $75. Call 412-805-8760.

WINDOW A/C UNIT- 11,000 BTU, runs great. $125. Call 724-379-9547.

5035/BABY ITEMS

GRACO Pack n Play with basinet $25.00
Call
724-483-1801.

STROLLER- blue Eddie Bauer, $15; PACK 'N PLAY, blue, $15. Call 724-379-7384.

5040/BUILDING MATERIAL

VINYL SIDING CORNER tan, *10 foot long*. FREE
Call
724-379-5104.

5060/COMPUTERS

HP COMPUTER 17" monitor, good condition, OS98, plus scanner $95. 724-929-3891.

PHOTO printer Canon *Pixma iP4000 like new* $30.00. Call 724-483-2973.

SCANNER/printer/copier Lexmark X83, excellent condition $30. Call 724-483-2973.

5080/EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

ELIPTICAL IMAGE- 8.25 excellent condition. $150. Call 724-379-4576 or 724-263-2829.

TREADMILL good condition, $150.00
Call
724-929-3426.

5110/FOOD

CANNING

Tomatoes $20/bushel; Roma tomatoes $24/bushel; plus many other canning vegetables inc. red, green & yellow peppers, hot peppers, green beans. Plus red, white & gold potatoes, watermelon & much more. Dudas Farm 724-246-7601.

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT!
ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT.
CLASSIFIEDS

5130/FURNITURE

CHAIRS (2) A-1, 1 rose, 1 off white, coffee table, 3 pc. victorian, $50 takes all. 724-489-0107

CHAIRS (2) matching white resin, nice, high back, $8 for both. 724-489-0107.

DINING ROOM SET- table, chairs, china closet & server. Cherry wood. All pads included. Very good condition. 724-489-0241.

KITCHEN chrome chairs from the 50's (4), $20.
Call
724-684-7289.

KITCHEN TABLE and chairs, $20.00
Call
724-684-7289.

LIFT CHAIR good condition, $100.00
Call
724-929-3426.

MATCHING sofa & loveseat, floral pattern, great cond., $200 for both. 724-929-8746.

RECLINER- large, maroon. Good condition. Call 724-379-8026.

SOFA- large 90", blue denim $100; CHAIR- large 52", overstuffed, red $40. 724-684-9204

TABLE glass top and 4 chairs, black & silver, $250.00. Call 724-483-1162.

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6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

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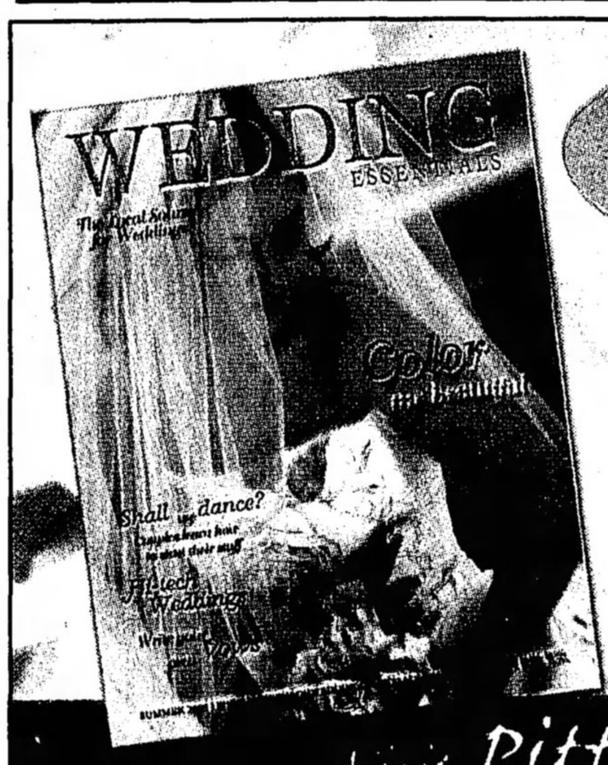

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...Clean the Garage
...Tidy up the Attic
...Organize the Basement

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Carroll Twp.

167 Rt. 837. 4 bedroom ranch. $164,900. DIR: 51S to 70W, Exit 43B, stay L on DeiCas Hwy, cross Monessen bridge, L up hill, L at T. Holly Cerini.

Monessen

7 Columbus. 3 bedroom ranch. $83,000. DIR. 51S to 70W to Monessen Exit 41, R Tyrol, L Grand Blvd., L Monessen Blvd., R Columbus, home on L. Jessica Arnold.

West Newton

6 Harris St. 4 bedroom 2 story. $124,500. DIR: 51S, 136E to West Newton, cross bridge, R 8th St., L Vine, R Hill, L Harris. Linda Lunt

West Newton

171 N. 2nd St. 3 bedroom 2 story. $144,900. DIR: 51 N/S to 136 E/W to West Newton, cross bridge, L 2nd St. to house on L top of hill. Diane Mesiarik.

Howard Hanna
Simon Real Estate Services
724-929-9699

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CARROLL TWP. 3 bedroom, 1 acre, garage, owner will give over $6,000 towards buyer costs, home warranty. Call Mary at Coldwell Banker TCR 724-454-9059. $102,000.

DONORA- 105 Second St. 2 bedrooms. Buy, rent, rent to own. Make offer. Realtor owned. Call 724-483-3908.

ELLSWORTH $45,000. Fully furnished duplex inc. appliances, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, new roof, fenced yard, paved parking. 724-746-2853.

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3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

MONONGAHELA: BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom brick split entry. Well maintained. Owner will entertain reasonable offer. $165,000.
CALL for appt. to view this 4 bedroom brick ranch on 13.5 acres. Close to bus, hospital & 43. Asking $229,921.
CALL today for details on this 4 bedroom brick ranch on 3 acres. Family room & den. $149,921.

Century 21
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724-348-7470

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

ROSTRAVER
3 bedroom, all brick, 2/3 acre double lot, pool, walk to all schools, stunning inside & out. $229,900. Call 724-929-3325 or see at www.paopenhouse.com

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BELLE VERNON
1. 2 or 3 bedroom, 2 story home on corner lot. New carpet. $35,900.
2. Building lot with all utilities available on Alpine Drive. $65,000.
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3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

WEST NEWTON New Listing. Beautiful 3 bedroom home in very good condition! Hardwood floors, central air, plenty of parking, nicely landscaped yard! $152,500.
CHARLEROI Just Reduced. Attention investors. High traffic store front and 4 apts. already rented in downtown Charleroi. Many updates inc. new furnaces & flooring. Separate utilities. $47,900.

Century 21
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3075/LOTS/ACREAGE

WEST NEWTON Residential riverfront lot on the Yough suited for recreation or new home site. Wooded & level with slight slope. All utilities avail. & paved road access. Owner wants offers! $15,000.
SOUTH HUNTINGTON Residential land. 12.88 acres. Property levels out on top to approx. 8 acres. If you like private & seclusion this is perfect. Think how your log cabin or home would look sitting on this parcel! $56,000.
NEWELL 5 mostly level wooded lots all 24x115, sold together as one big parcel ready for your dream home! Seller will consider all reasonable offers! $19,900.

Century 21
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3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI- 2nd floor, 2 bedrooms 1½ baths, parking, central air. Water & sewage incl. $475. 724-483-8045.

CHARLEROI-1 bedroom, $475 per month, all utilities included except electric. 412-583-6829.

CHARLEROI 2 ½ bedroom, stove, refrig. heat, water, sewage, garbage inc. $575. 724-518-1677.

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. $350-$500. Security deposit. No pets.
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724-292-1189

★ CHARLEROI And DONORA ★
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Clean & Secure
Call 412-398-9306

DONORA- 3 bedroom, ground floor, accessible. Incl. heat, water & sewage. $500+ electric. Call 412-302-4856.

MONONGAHELA 2nd floor, 2 bedroom, lg. living room, nice kitchen, peaceful neighborhood. $450+ utilities. No pet. 724-258-6481.

3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON completely remodeled 2 bedroom 1 bath, living/kitchen area w/breakfast bar, laundry, deck, spacious closets, new appliances, security system. $650 includes sewage & water. No pets. References required. 724-379-6160.

ROSTRAVER TWP. 2 bedroom, lg living room & kitchen, garage. $475+utilities. No pets/smoking 724-872-0477.

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

BELLE VERNON & MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, balcony, storage, security. Starting at $375 + utilities. Call 412-257-0902.

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

ARNOLD CITY 2 story, 2 bedroom, some appliances, full basement, oil heat, no pets. $475+ security & utilities. 724-243-3205.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- little house, 4 big rooms, stove, w/w carpet, warm, clean. Ready now. No pets. Call 724-379-6492.

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA very nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath house for rent or rent-to-own. Call 724-678-0979.

MONONGAHELA-private 2 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, yard. $500+ utilities. Please call 724-258-2473.

MONONGAHELA 2 large bedrooms, new energy efficient windows, new carpet, no pets. $450+ utilities. 724-483-3488.

N. CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, 1 bath. $400 + utilities & security deposit. Call 724-208-8199.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.

MONESSEN 3 bedroom house for rent, newly remodeled. Call 724-309-5130.

3626/HSE-RENT/OTHER

DONORA & MONESSEN Large 4 & 3 bedroom homes, nice yards. Section 8 approved. Call 412-916-5671.

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2,200 sq. ft. 10' overhead garage door. Near Rts. 43, 51 & 70. $650 mo.
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640-2,200 sq. ft. $425-$1,400. On site parking, close to Rts. 43, 51, 70. Call 724-258-4000.
www.penosplaza.com

5130/FURNITURE

TWIN POSTER BEDS- solid cherry. $75. Call 724-258-4611.

5140/LAWN & GARDEN

RHUBARB- fresh picked. $2.99 per lb. Call 724-684-6359.

5150/HOME HEALTH CARE

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5180/MUSICAL

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FLUTE Bundy excellent, $140. Call 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

TRUMPET Bundy excellent, $140. 724-929-4538 or cell 724-875-9235.

UPRIGHT PIANO- Hammond, with bench. $300. You haul. Call 724-243-3596.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

1 SPINNING reel and 1 casting reel with rod, $30.00. Call 724-929-8108.

5205/TOOLS/HARDWARE

STIHL 16" chain saw with case, $125.00. Call 724-684-7289.

5550/CATS

2 KITTENS- abandoned, very cute! Free to good homes. Call after 2pm, 724-684-6654.

2 KITTENS- adorable, litter trained. Free to good home. Call 724-518-6285.

KITTEN- 12 wks, unique, very playful, toys included. $20 serious inquiries 724-684-4183.

5585/PETS - MISC

FERRET- white albino, female. Cute & cuddly, very playful, 1 yr. old. $65. 724-470-7003.

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST-small white poodle w/pink collar, between Exxon & City Park area Monessen. Call 724-980-4727.

LOST Black Lab named Shadow, Long Branch area. Contact John or Wanda 724-489-9256.

LOST small black male Toy Poodle answers to Buddy and small beige & white female Cockapoo answers to Jasmine, vicinity Allen Ave., Donora. 724-379-6114.

6030/TRUCKS

'93 FORD F150 4WD, 160K, needs driver side door, $900/best offer. 724-797-4925.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

TOOL BOX- aluminum ½ T truck. $125. Call 724-258-4611.

LOOKING FOR A DREAM JOB? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

GARAGE SALES

5310/GARAGE/YARD SALES

NEWELL- 4th St. Multi Family. Fri., Sept. 11, 7-2. Household, toys, books, clothes, much more. Rain or Shine.

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6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

USED AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
C&M AUTO RECYCLING
MONONGAHELA
724-258-3553

6060/VANS

'96 FORD VAN high top, 97,600 mi., triple bed, exc. cond. $6,000. 724-929-3606.

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

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724-929-6900

1997 DODGE Ram Truck V8, auto, 4x4 Ext. Cab $3,300.

1997 CHRYSLER Sebring Convertible, V6 JXi. $2,995.

2001 OLDS Silhouette Van, V6, 4 dr. $2,795.

2000 DODGE Stratus, 4 dr., V6. $2,995.

2001 CHEVY Prism, 4 cyl., auto. $3,500.

2004 FORD Freestar SE 4 dr., V6, 3rd row seat. Must see. $6,300.

2001 CHRYSLER Voyager, V6, 4 dr., 3rd row seat. 62K. $4,995.

2000 CHRYSLER Cirrus, 81K, 4 dr., 4 cyl. $3,500.

1999 CHEVY Malibu, 4 dr., 4 cyl. $2,995.

6080/AUTOS FOR SALE

08' CHEVY Cobalt LT 4 dr., power windows & locks, CD, only 15K-bal. factory warranty. $10,950/offer. 724-379-4040.

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FORD 2003 Ranger 4 cyl., 5 spd., air, serviced, ready to work, hard to fine at this price
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Only.....$3995
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Now Only.....$3995
HYUNDAI 2000 Elantra GLS auto., air, 65,000 mi., the one you're looking for
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ASTRO GRAPH

Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 2009

VIRGO
August 23 through September 22

In the year ahead, a great deal of travel is a strong possibility for you. However, many of the trips will be strictly for business purposes with little time for pleasurable activities. Don't plan on playing, and you won't be disappointed.

VIRGO **(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** -- In situations that call for disseminating important information, it will be wise to develop some type of written instructions. Leaving things purely to memory is not a good idea.

LIBRA **(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** -- Be prepared to encounter someone who wants to participate in an endeavor to which he or she has no right to be involved. Don't hesitate to say no to this individual.

SCORPIO **(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** -- This can be a productive day if you are competent about scheduling what you do and when you do it. Unless priority matters are placed at the top of your list, many may not get done.

SAGITTARIUS **(Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** -- Co-workers or associates will lose respect for you if you don't show the courage of your convictions. Once you take a certain position, defend it against all comers.

CAPRICORN **(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** -- As long as you are careful not to take any foolish risks or gambles, your financial trends will continue to be strong. If you are tempted to do otherwise, you're likely to lose what you gained.

AQUARIUS **(Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** -- Don't mess with anything when circumstances are running smoothly for you. Change for change's sake will lead to all kinds of disruptions.

PISCES **(Feb. 20-March 20)** -- Being extremely clever and imaginative isn't always enough. If you treat embryonic projects as if they're already accomplished, things will never develop for you.

ARIES **(March 21-April 19)** -- Although you have good earning capabilities, you are also likely to have strong spending urges. If you're extravagant and frivolous with your funds, you'll neutralize your gains.

TAURUS **(April 20-May 20)** -- Because you're a better-than-average achiever, the possibilities for success in competition are excellent. However, if you're not careful, you could easily be an ungracious winner or a poor loser.

GEMINI **(May 21-June 20)** -- What success you have is likely due in large part to your allies and supporters, but since you expected more, you might blame them for what you didn't get.

CANCER **(June 21-July 22)** -- Even though socializing with friends turns out great, the same amount of effort applied toward business or work activities won't suffice. They will take more work.

LEO **(July 23-Aug. 22)** -- In situations where you do all the work and call all the shots, the results should be just fine. Conversely, partnership arrangements may do nothing but impede your progress.

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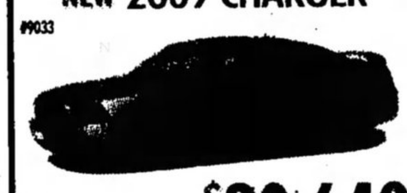
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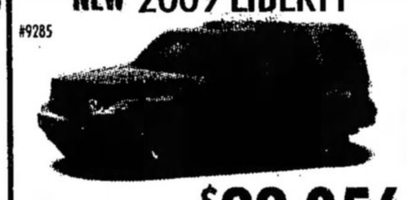
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